





THE
Pleasures and Felicity
OF
MARRIAGE,

Display'd in Ten BOOKS:

CONTAINING

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. The Lady's Consent, meeting of their Relations to adjust the Portion, the Invitation of Guests, the Wedding, &c. | VI. The providing Childbed Linnen, choice of a Midwife and Nurse, vastly important as well to the Mother as Child. |
| II. The arising of the happy Pair, their Choice of Household Furniture, wherein the Bride manifests the Greatness of her Genius. | VII. Her falling in Labour; with such Variety of Incidents, as are no less true than amazing. |
| III. Their Visits; how they are carest'd ev'ry where; their Journey into the Country, and Adventures there. | VIII. Her Delivery; the Beauty of the Child; strange Stories told by the Gossips, no less useful than entertaining. |
| IV. Their Return; her Gossiping among her Neighbours, to whom she complains she is not breeding; and applies to a Doctor, with other Matters too engaging to be overlook'd. | XI. The Christ'ning; Mirth of the good Company; with Stories still more wonderful, and fit to be treasur'd in Memory. |
| V. Joyful News! she proves with Child; the Pleasure of Longing, with a Number of Incidents entirely new. | X. The Coating of the Child; great Difficulties surmounted on that Occasion; in which Madam shews vast Ability, well worth Recording. |

The whole illustrated with eleven Cuts, humorously design'd.

By *LEMUEL GULLIVER.*

The Second Edition.

L O N D O N,

Printed: and sold by J. ROBINSON, Publisher, at
the *Golden-Lion*, in *Ludgate-street*. 1745.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

Display in Ten Books:

O V I N I T 7 2 0 3

1. The following information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be used for any other purpose.

SECRET

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

The Chicago; Main
of the Chicago; with
of the Chicago; with
of the Chicago; with

well as the
Museum of
Natural History
and the
Smithsonian Institution
in Washington, D.C.

1. The first of these is the fact that the majority of the population of the United States is now living in urban areas. This is a result of the process of urbanization, which has been going on since the beginning of the 20th century. The process of urbanization is the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas. This is done for a variety of reasons, including the search for better living conditions, the desire for education, and the need for employment. The process of urbanization has led to the growth of large cities and the decline of small towns. This has had a significant impact on the way we live and work. It has led to the development of new technologies and industries, and it has changed the way we think and behave. The process of urbanization is still going on, and it is likely to continue for many years to come. It is important to understand the process of urbanization and its impact on society, so that we can make the most of the opportunities it offers and avoid the problems it creates.

[illegible]

.....



TO THE
AUTHOR.



AD I, dear Sir, a thousand *Hands*,
A thousand *Pens* and *Inky Stands* ;
A thousand *Tongues*, profuse in
Tropes ?

A thousand *Wits*, as rich as *Pope's* ;
A thousand *Years* to write——what then ?
Thy Praise should charm a Million Men.

Thy *poinant Wit*, and *humourous Vein*,
Make my *rais'd Spirits* dance again ;
Dame Nature in thy rich Array,
Smiles like a Bride, and shines as Gay,
In flowing Robes, apt, sweet, and newer,
Than Verse, or Prose, before, e'er drew her ;

Strange ! *all*, th' inviting *Scenes* should leave,
For thee to paint, which charm'd since *Eve* !

The * *Poet sweet*, of *Sulmo's Groves*,
Whose *Lays* adorn *polluted Loves*,
Of *Nuptial Pleasures*, scarce could dream !
Whilst *Prostitution* was his *Theam* !
His Muse, like a fair *Hartot's Arms*,
Lulls to Destruction, *whom* she *charms* !
Ev'n *he*, her *doleful Victim* fell !
In *sad Exile* his *Woes* to tell.

But ev'ry *Muse*, and *Grace*, combine,
In this enchanting *Work* of *thine* ;
Thou paints *Love's Joys*, but does not seek,
To raise a *Blush*, on *Beauty's Cheek* ;
Yet *Nymphs* as cold as *Cynthia's Train*,
Shall, Reading, glow in ev'ry *Vein*,
And wish, now whilst their *Beauty's* springing,
Their own *Epithalamium* singing ;
For fair, fond, coy, and scornful *Dames*,
Catch all, and quench alike, *Love's Flames* ;

* *Ovid*, who was born at *Sulmo*, Author of the *Art of Love* ; for the Leudness of which, he complains that *Augustus* banish'd him to *Pontus*, where he languish'd till his Death.

But

But those demure in outward Show,
 Are, at their Hearts, all Fire and Tow !
 Which kindl'd, in their soft Bosoms preys,
 Till Love, the Flames he rais'd, allays.

Thy *Audience* want no † *Flappers* here,
Attention thirsts in ev'ry Ear,
 And *there* imbibes thy *Strain*, which flows
Harmonious, as young *Lovers Vows* !

We *share* with Joy, thy *sumptuous Feast*,
 But can *we* too, regale thy *Taste* ?
 How *Penury* does the *grateful* vex !
 Ah ! Fly then, to the charming Sex !
 And like a jocund Fairy, spring
 Amid't their soft, sweet, magick Ring !
 They'll show'r on thee, with smiling Look,
 Ev'n all the Pleasures in thy Book ;
 Then Revel, Banquet, Bill, and Coo,
 Whilst Heart can wish, —— and after too !

† See *Gulliver's Travels* to *Laputa*, where the Author found *Flappers* were of great Importance.

In fine, *my Friend*, thy witty *Page*,
Soars far above the *Critic's* Rage.

May *Fate*, (where *Wit* is no Defence,)
Preserve *it* from the *Foes of Sense*,
From Prudes, Coquets, Fops, Bully-Rocks,
Louts, Witlings, and meer *Human-Blocks* ;
And *it* shall *Charm* whilst *Cupid* plys,
His keenest Darts from *brightest Eyes* ;
And *thy fair Fame*, immortal prove,
As *Hymen's Rites*, or *Joys of Love* !

I AP 64



DEDICA.



DEDICATION,

To the Fair Sex.



HIS little Performance implores your Protection ; suffer it not to languish for your Favour ; the Infant Wanderer is just turn'd loose in the World, abandon'd by its Parent ; shew your wonted Compassion to Innocence in Distress, and with your lovely Hands raise it from your Feet, that encourag'd by your Smiles, it may presume to claim some Affinity to your beautiful selves, who, as you are the Source of all human Felicity, gave *Being* to this prostrate *Suppliant*, whole

b

Linea-

Lineaments are copied from your bright Originals, which are embellish'd with such num'rous Charms, that it is no wonder the Resemblance is so faint; for who could ever draw the Sun in all its Glory! this Painter conscious of his Inability to represent you in the Fullness of your Splendor, presumes only to delineate a few of your Features, and commemorate a small Portion of that Happiness you so bountifully show'r on your Adorers; and will be fortunate enough if the Picture retains some Likeness of a Prospect so agreeable and delightful; for alas! what Colours have Lustre enough to set Beauty in a proper Light? or what Eloquence can express excessive Felicity? the Awe of the former, intimidates the Artist, who lets fall his Pencil in Despair of ever accomplishing the
bold

bold Design ; and the latter, transports the Orator to run on in Exclamations, till he is at length forc'd to stop with a full Note of Admiration ! A Wit as piercing as your Eyes, and infinite as your Perfections, would only give a Specimen of Arrogance in pretending to represent you more amiable than you are ; your Lovers themselves, who, become mute in your Presence, are eager to acknowledge to all others their Inability to extol you sufficiently, and continually feel their Idea's surpass their Expressions ; this, Ladies, has been the Misfortune of your Limner ; your Virtues rose faster in his Mind, than his Pen could record, and your Charms languish'd in the Description ; and nothing but the Impossibility of doing you Justice, together with that compassionate Disposition so natural to your soft Sex, could

viii DEDICATION.

could make him hope for a Pardon,
who has succeeded no better in
your Encomium, and yet presumes
to rank himself amongst your
num'rous Admirers.

L. GULLIVER.

I AP 64



INTRO



INTRODUCTION.

Dear Cousin,



Receiv'd your Letter, in which you consult with me in so delicate a Point, as the giving your Hand to the beautiful Creature, who already possesses your Heart. The great Deference you have for my Judgment, perplexes me extreamly ; for whilst you rely on my Skill, should I like an ignorant Pilot steer among Rocks and Quicksands, and shipwreck your Vessel, with what might you not accuse me ? For tho' Marriage, like the Ocean, is often calm, smooth,
c and

x INTRODUCTION.

and vastly delightful, in the Prospect, yet whoever embarks in either, will be very fortunate if he escapes all the Perils so many encounter. Your Stile informs me how much Love has inflam'd your Heart, and how willingly you would follow a Guide, which leads to the Accomplishment of your present Wishes; but who can tell how the Scene may change on the other Side the nuptial Ceremony! This is what occasions all my Anxiety; should I advise you to unite your Destiny with the dear Charmer, I am sure of your Applause for the present, the overflowing of your Joy would load me with the kindest Epithets, you would admire with what Ardency I interest myself in your Felicity, and indeed in the last Article you would but do me Justice; having your Hapiness so much at Heart, occasions my Diffidence; to others on the same Occasion, I have generally giv'n my Opinion agreeable to the Bent of their Inclination, without hesitating in the least, and thought it a Point of Politeness to observe they could not be too speedy, since all agree *Cupid* has Wings;

to

INTRODUCTION. xi

to intimate, with what Rapidity the Lover should hasten to the Arms of his Mistress. But, what shall I say to you for whom I have such infinite Friendship and Affection, shall I repeat the same Doctrine? doubtless it will be most acceptable: But how if I advise the contrary? O hateful Thought; let it be buried in Oblivion; it shall never escape my Lips; for besides, that I hate to be peremptory, I think it the fairest for you to judge for yourself; and for that Purpose have sent you a Portraiture of *the Pleasures of Marriage*, drawn so impartially, that I can no Way answer your Letter so pertinently, as by recommending them to your Perusal; after which, determine how you will, I shall not be apprehensive of your Reproach. Consider them therefore attentively, nor doubt of your experimenting every one of them in the full Extent here represented; nay, you may reasonably expect your Share of some here omitted: But I will detain you no longer, for hark, the Lady is just going to give her Consent; I recommend you to give your Assistance in celebrating the
Wedding,

xii INTRODUCTION.

Wedding, you will be better qualify'd to prepare for your own, I cannot attend you, my Blood is not spirited enough to be there. Adieu, dear Cousin, reserve a small Corner of your Heart, for,

LEM. GULLIVER.

I AP 64



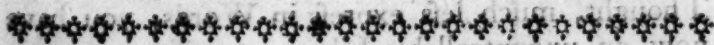
THE







THE
PLEASURES
OF
MARRIAGE.



BOOK I.

*The Consent is given, the Time appointed,
the Marriage solemniz'd, and Wed-
ding kept.*



THE youthful Lover, till now
has been sighing, hoping and
begging to draw from those
charming tardy Lips, that
long-wished for Word of Con-
sent: It is at length come
forth, and acts upon his love-
sick Mind, as a rich Cordial
upon a languishing Patient. Fortunate Lover!
You have now vanquished, and are triumphing o-
ver

ver all your potent Rivals, who can imagine your Joy! Whatever you are employ'd about, your Thoughts continually glance upon the near Approach of your Happiness. --- Your beautiful Mistress is now willing; Denials are laid aside; nothing remains but a small Degree of Shame and Fear, which a little Time will eradicate. What Mortal can desire a greater Happiness than you now participate! Your Will and Desires are hers, and her Desires augment your Pleasure. Now may you tumble and regale yourself in a Bed of Lillies and Roses; for her disdainful Looks are exchanged for inviting Smiles. Those panting, snow-white Breasts, which before you hardly could presume to look upon, much less to touch with one Finger, you may now survey all o'er with eager Eyes, and imprint with burning Kisses. What shall I add! The delightful Place, the Haven of all your Joys, which heretofore you hardly durst approach in Thought, much less express in Words, you have now an uncontrollable Liberty to visit, embrace and enjoy, while you have any Capacity for that most ravishing Exercise. But, O victorious Lover, let not however your exulting Mind ruminate too much upon these dazling Enjoyments; be a little temperate in your Pleasures; because there may possibly happen in the Course of Things some cross-gain'd Obstructions: For I have frequently experienced, that those imaginary Joys, which you are now indulging, introduce a numerous Train of Anxieties. Perhaps the very Mouth upon which you are bestowing so many rapturous Kisses, and amorous Epithets, and which now flows with the sweetest Language, may hereafter oftener open to overwhelm you with Reproach. Those heaving Breasts, which now you fondly call the *Hills of Nectar*, and *Banquet of the Gods*, may perhaps hereafter sink in the Comparison. Moderate therefore your extatic Descriptions, and amo-

The Pleasures of Marriage. 3

rous Praises, till you have been longer accustom'd to the delicious Banquet *Hymen* has prepared for you.

Nevertheless, you have great Reason to be jocund, at least for this Week; for a Meeting is appointed to close up the Match; and it's requisite that you in Person should wait upon your Friends, to know what Day and Hour their Affairs will permit them to attend this important Business. To do this, you must, perhaps, traverse the City through; and who knows after all your Pains, whether the major Part of 'em, may not be absent from Home. Those that you are so fortunate as to meet with, cannot agree about the Time: One can attend to Day, another to Morrow, a third not 'till the Week following: So that by this first Pleasure, you have a little Feeling of Trouble; which may have its Advantage; because it gives you an Earnest of, and, if rightly improv'd, may help to inure you the better to sustain what's to follow.

But how does your Joy increase, when after all your Labour and Fatigue, you see your Friends and Relations happily met together with a Design to adjust all Matters; to the End that you may throw yourself into the Arms of your expecting Chärmer. But here again also, moderate a little your Transport, for tho' you, thro' the Eagerness of your youthful Desires, are prompted to take her for better or worse, yet your sagacious Parents, or Guardians, having now no Relish for the amorous Combat, are contriving all probable Methods to deceive, impose upon, and over-reach each other, with regard to their respective Disbursements.

In the mean Time however, and what an unspeakable Felicity is that! You may be *kissing*, *toying* and *dallying* with your Mistress, in the next Room; or contriving and agreeing together what

is to be done, both before and at the Wedding; tho' perhaps, thro' the Discord of your Friends and Relations, it may not be long before you are disturb'd in your ravishing Employment, by the disagreeable Sound of their clamorous Differences, as the Fortune of one is disproportionate to that of the other: Or else, that by some subtle Matrimonial Contract, they endeavour to make the Goods of each disinheritable by the other. In short, as Parents and Friends know very well from Experience, that Matrimony, of all others, is the greatest and most delusory Contract: So their own Disagreements are Motives powerful enough to induce them, to dissuade the young Couple from the Match.

But tho' on each Side they use the most plausible Arguments, they are to no purpose; for our Lovers are both by this Time in an amorous Blaze, and therefore, let what will happen, the Fire must be quench'd. Besides this, Madam reasons with herself thus: The Familiarities which I have granted to my LOVER, tho' they are not absolutely criminal in themselves, yet if his Disappointment should provoke him to a Discovery, my Reputation is ruin'd and I'm undone. The young LOVER is so enamoured at the inflexible Constancy of his adorable Angel, that he is resolved, tho' he should be reduced to the utmost Necessity, never to abandon her. Let the Contract therefore, says he, fir'd with Love, be what it will, tho' Infamy and Destruction are inserted, I am resolv'd to sign it. Their tender mercenary Parents, discerning the Resolution of their Darlings, at length come to an Agreement. The Attorney very circumstantially draws up the Marriage Contract, which both Parties sign, and the Knot is immediately tied. Oh Heavens! this is a Burthen from my Heart, and a Millstone taken off from my Neck.
Here's

Here's now Matter for superlative Mirth and Rejoicing indeed ; all the Friends wish the young Couple much Joy ; ---- About goes a Health, to the good Success of the Marriage ; every one wishing them a Profusion of every sublunary Enjoyment. As Drinking is generally an Introduction to Talking, so one of the Company begins to entertain the rest, with a Relation of what happened to himself, in his Courtship, at his Wedding, and in his Marriage-state, and concludes with remarking that at first he thought of nothing but wantonning in the Arms of his Spouse ; but he soon found, from the Multiplicity of Crosses, Vexations and Disappointments which Matrimony introduced, that he had Time little enough upon his Hands to prevent his Reputation from sinking, and his Substance from being totally exhausted.

But however, Mr. Bridegroom, you may now regale your Fancy to the utmost, and rejoice inordinately ; for the Ceremony is over. You are secure of your Bride, the Chain which links you together, is so durable, nothing but Death can set you free.

And you Mrs. Bride, whose Countenance betrays such inward Satisfaction, be merry ; for 'tis you, 'tis only you who occasions all this Musick, Mirth and Dancing : You have now a Husband, and a Protector too, whose welcome Embraces will fill your Soul with the highest Degree of Extasy and Raptures. Nay, more, he'll be your Physician, to cure your pale Face, to remove the Pains from the Reins of your Back, and from your Heart, and all other Distempers whatsoever ; he'll dry up your Tears with Kisses, and by his Endeavours to please, he'll anticipate every Wish.

Therefore, Mrs. Bride, make yourself merry ; and since your Desire is accomplish'd in being married before any of your Bride-maids, it is unreasonable

6 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

reasonable that you should be interrupted with any Thing that don't relate to your own Happiness. Here is Work enough indeed of that Kind. Your Apparel is as yet unmade, and your Linens, Laces, and numberless other Things are yet to be bought. Well, who can see an End to it! Here's one Piece too light, another too dark, a third has no Gloss, a fourth is too cheap: Here's three or four Days gone, and very little Progress made.

The worst is, that while you are so industriously contriving for Dispatch, you are every Moment interrupted by one and another, who are continually bringing in either Ornaments or Necessaries to credit the approaching Solemnity.

Well, Mrs. *Bride*, your Head must certainly be extremely disorder'd with attending to so many fatiguing Affairs at once; you'll be glad, no doubt on't, when the Confusion is well over: But comfort yourself with this, that for these few troublesome Days, you'll be rewarded with many delicious Nights. But it is not your Case alone, for the Bridegroom has had his Share of the Trouble, in providing the best *Canary*, *Madeira*, and *Champain*, that those Friends who come to wish the Bride and Bridegroom Joy, may be presented with a delicate Glass of Wine; but chiefly, that those who are employ'd in ornamenting the Bride, may taste the Bride's Tears.

But really, Friends, if you come to taste the Bride's Tears now, you are much too soon; in a Month or two, you may be certain of meeting with Plenty of unfeigned ones.

But, O Mr. *Bridegroom*, what shall we say to you? You, certainly are entitled to our Pity, on account of that Variety of Fatigue you undergo. There, you have just now miss'd the Jeweller; perhaps he's shewing some of his most costly Curiosities

to

The Pleasures of Marriage. 7

to the *Bride* ; the more excessive the Price, the fonder will she be of 'em ; but 'tis you that must have the Pleasure of paying for 'em : However, 'tis Time enough to consider of that when the Wedding is over ; for as yet you have not done with the *Draper, Mercer, Taylor and Sempstresses*.

But let the Thoughts of the Pleasures that are hastening, support you under all. You'll e'er long be honoured with the best Place in the Chancel, and before you will be spread a rich Tapestry, your Ears also will be delighted with the harmonious Sound of the Bride's Assent, confirmed by these Words, *I will!* Unspeakable Pleasures. In the mean Time it is necessary that you consult with your Friends on both Sides, who shall be invited, and who not ; and in this you must be careful to prevent Broils and Disturbances, which very frequently happen. The next thing is, to consider of the Grandeur or Frugality of the *Wedding-Entertainment*. But this you must leave to the Management of a Steward ; who, that he may oblige the several Tradesmen concern'd, and at the same Time procure some Advantage to himself, will order in a Profusion of the most delicate and costly Materials, persuading you to believe that your Credit therein is greatly concern'd. And this must convey to you most exquisite Delight, especially as the *Bride* signifies her intire Approbation thereof.

But who can imagine that any Uneasiness should arise about placing the Friends of the *Bride* and *Bridegroom* at Table. The ordering of this creates such Disputes, that our young Couple begin to repent, that they made any *Wedding* at all : Infomuch, that sighing to each other, they say, alas, what a thick Shell this *Marriage-Nut* has ! O, when shall we come to taste its delicious Kernel !

In

8 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

In the Interim, let the *Bridegroom*, attended with his *Bride*, go to taste the *Wedding-Wine*, and dispel those Cares, that obscure his Relish of approaching Joys, and at the same Time see that it has a delicate Flavour and Relish, fit to entertain such a Number of curious Palates.

Now *Bride*, and *Bride-maids*, look to it, for you may expect the *Bridegroom*, and *Bride-men*, to be superabundantly jolly, and much more wanton than witty; the Wine-Merchant, a true Son of *Bacchus*, declaring that no one shall escape him, till he has drank as many Glasses as there are Hoops upon a Wine-Hoghead.

Adieu to Care, and every gloomy Thought! The Wedding's now at Hand: Let Mirth in all its pleasing Forms be indulged to the utmost. Away with all your dull, phlegmatic Satyrists, who prate incessantly, that the Marriage-State brings nothing else but Trouble. See here to the contrary; for the Mind and Intention of every one is united, to pass away these Days in the most exquisite Pleasures and Delights. Away then with Sorrow, for she's no Wedding-guest; but let every Thought be employ'd to assist our young Lovers, that they may with the greater Relish enjoy this the first Pleasure of the *Matrimonial-Heaven*.

But hark! there's poor *Molly* the Maid, almost distracted with Expectation; she thinks every Minute an Hour till the *Wedding-Night* is over, that she may wait upon and congratulate the happy Pair, to the End that she may experience their Liberality for her careful Attendance and incessant Fatigue ---- No-Body deserves it better, thinks she, for I have employ'd both Day and Night to serve 'em, their Secrets I have kept, and their *Love-Letters* convey'd with the greatest Care and Dispatch. Poor Girl, she has as yet liv'd upon the
Bridegroom's





Bridegroom's Promises ; but he'll be generous.

Well, the charming Bride is now put to Bed ; and you may divert yourself among the rest of the Wedding-guests : Who can tell but that some brave Gentleman's Coachman, Footman, or Postilion, may fall in Love with you ; for one *Wedding* often begets another. Udsbuds, *Molly* ! You'll then experience as well as your Mistress, the unspeakable Raptures of the first Matrimonial Entertainment, and be as well qualified to expect the second.



B O O K II.

Madam goes to buy Household-Furniture ; the Ingratitude of some of the Wedding-Guests, and Thankfulness of others ; with other no less entertaining Particulars.

WHAT tho' the Sun has been risen long ago, yet our wedded Pair are still aBed ; Well, young Couple, you must needs be highly delighted, now the *Wedding* is over, and all Noise and Confusion at an End. You may now regale yourselves till the Day is far spent ; and to raise your youthful Desires to the highest Pitch ; you may, and I doubt not but you will, instruct one another in the School of *Venus*, and gratify your youthful Desires and Appetites to the utmost. *What Pleasures are these !*

After which, you may rejoice in the sweet Remembrance of your sumptuous Apparel and Ornaments, first invented by Madam *Squanderall*, and in the Delicacy and Elegancy of your Wed-

ding-Feast. Now may you please your Fancies, with Ideas of the Masquerading, Dancing, Singing, and every other Gambol that Youth, invigorated by *Bacchus*, either perform'd out of Mirth, or Wantonness.

O, how merry were all the Guests ! how deliciously were the Dishes dressed and garnish'd ! what Credit to the Cook and Steward ! The Wine excellent ! in a Word, every Thing Noble and Grand. Well, they all eat plentifully and drank liberally ; and is not the Demembrance of these Things, the highest Degree of Delight and Satisfaction ?

And you, O Mrs. *Bride*, you are now not only Wife, but Mistress. You are now beyond the Power and Authority of your domineering, snarling, mercenary Guardians, those Emissaries of Satan. ---- You are now subject to no other Law, but that of your own Will ; and may without Reserve, Shame, or Scandal, receive the fond Embraces of your vigorous Beloved. And you, O Husband, of the first Edition, how do you revel and solace in all the Delights and Extasies of new-invented Wantonness ! How willingly does your liberal *Venus*, of her own Accord, open and display each secret Charm before your ravished Eyes ; Charms and Delights that none but those that feel can comprehend ! Well, make good Use of your Time ; set no Bounds at present to your Desires, but clasp, embrace, and caress, those snowy tender Limbs while nothing interrupts ; because the Time may be drawing near, when the Curtains of your Bed being opened, you may discern such long Accounts from the *Jeweller*, *Goldsmith*, *Mercer*, *Draper*, *Vintner*, and others, as may find you a very different Employment.

But then, on the other Hand, you will be delighted to hear your Spouse every Moment talk of going with her Sister and Aunt, to order in such
Furniture

Furniture as may reflect Dignity and Grandeur upon the Owner. What Pleasure will you receive, and how will you applaud the happy Choice you have made, when your Darling gives you a Specimen of the Delicacy of her Taste in *Down-Beds, Rich-Counterpains, costly Hangings, Venetian Looking-Glasses, enamel'd China, Velvet Chairs, Turkey Carpets, Capital Paintings, Side-board of wrought Plate, curious in-laid Cabinets, rich Child-bed Linen, Flanders Lace,* and many other valuable Particulars. Certainly, the Joy of your Heart will far exceed the Chinking of your Purse, when your House, by the indefatigable Pains of your Spouse, is thus grandly adorn'd.

And should you, O happiest of Men! not discern the absolute Necessity of all the above Particulars, and be from thence inclin'd to indulge a gloomy Thought, or assume a doubtful Brow, you will be soon releas'd from both; for your prudent Spouse, to your great Satisfaction, will inform you, that they, and many others, are no more than what's needful, both for Use and Credit, unless you design to banish all reputable Company from your House; and your Joy is certainly at the highest, when she kindly insinuates, that 'tis your Province to procure Money, and hers to see it expended to Advantage.

Who can describe your Pleasure, when you hear your Charmer, ever and anon expatiating upon the Portion she has brought to you! And as it consists of Immoveables, as Houses, Lands, &c. what Joy does it diffuse, when she fondly prompts you to take a Journey thither twice a Year with her to receive your Rents.

Here your Tenants and others, salute you with the Title of Squire; and, according to their Customs and Capacities, endeavour to exceed each other in Acts of Respect and Kindness; nor will they be

backward in amusing you with all Manner of rural Exercises and Diversions.

But here you'll meet with some Alloy to your Pleasures; your Tenants are full of Complaints about the Badness and Scarcity of the preceding Years; the ill Effects of the War, and the like; so that you must needs be content with Promises instead of Payments; for where it is not to be had, the King must lose his Right.

However, you may comfort yourself with this, that, thro' this your advantageous Match, you are sole Proprietor of so many Acres, so many Orchards, and so many Houses; and altho' you have not as yet reap'd any Advantage, but have rather been out of Pocket; that must by no Means lessen your Mirth and Joy; for would you trouble yourself about such trivial Matters as these, you need have no other Employment. If your Wife's Portion had been paid down in ready Money, you would have been extremely perplex'd, where to have dispos'd of it to Advantage, without Danger; but you know that Houses and Land are always secure, and when the War is happily at an End, will sufficiently reward your Patience and Forbearance.

You must therefore drive all gloomy Thoughts from your Breast, with calling to Mind, the extraordinary Commendations which your Friends bestow'd upon your late magnificent Entertainment; and also that two or three Days hence, a Visit is intended to be pay'd you by some of 'em, in Order to return you Thanks in Form, for the Honour you have done 'em; and this they will do in such a polite and affectionate Manner, that it will be impossible for you to avoid inviting them to sup, and spend the Evening with you; which will not only be a great Addition to your Mirth and Happiness, but will be a Means of establishing a lasting Friendship between you.

'Tis

'Tis true, you may possibly hear that some at the *Wedding* were displeas'd, not being, as they imagin'd, entertain'd according to their Rank and Deserts. Perhaps your Uncle and his new-married Niece, were not seated and waited upon to their Minds. If *Timothy* too assiduously waited upon some, while he neglected Miss *Lack-it* and her *Mamma*, or if Squire *Squeeze-up* put Miss *Betty's* Hoop out of Shape, or *Dolly Slammikin* could not reach any Sweet-meats for herself and Companion Miss *Tawdry*, this must not diminish your Joy; 'tis impossible to satisfy all: 'Tis enough for you that the Expence was equivalent to its Grandeur.

'Tis a thousand Pities that they ever were invited, since all your Endeavours to please have proved abortive. Comfort yourself however, and a great Comfort it is, that whenever it happens again, you will not purchase Ingratitude at such an extravagant Price. 'Tis now too late to advise; but it would have been much better to have invited such Guests as those, at two or three several Times before hand, to partake of a chearful Glas and away; and then you would have had but a small Company at the *Wedding*, which are much easier to govern and please.

Tho' this for the present may give some Uneasiness, yet Pleasure and Joy again return, and will constantly attend you while your Table is spread and your Cellar open, for that will banish every Appearance of Discontent among your Friends and Relations, and will wonderfully delight also the Wife of your Bosom: And not only so, but it will exempt you from being reproached by her, with entertaining her Friends and Acquaintance in a covetous niggardly Manner; this will encourage Returns on their Side, and will be the happy Means of a most comfortable and friendly Correspondence: So that in the Season you will be gratefully presented

14 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

ed with Grapes, Nuts, Apricots, and Peaches, which being cold, must be warm'd with a Glass or two of generous Wine; at other Times Venison, Hares, Partridges, or *Colchester-Oysters*, but neither will these be agreeable without the Attendance of *Bacchus*. Oh Quintessence of all Mirth and Delight! what Expence can be too great to purchase the good Will of such generous Friends, and kind Relations!

If therefore, you by chance should meet with one of your Spouse's liberal Relations, let it be your Care to press him to accompany you Home, and their regale him with a Glass of exhilarating Wine. How pleasing will it be to her, to see her Friends treated with such extraordinary Respect; especially as by your Means he is introduced into the Company of Variety of pretty Ladies, your Spouse's Companions. And if he be single, 'tis highly probable, that you may be the happy Instrument of another Wedding. If this should be the Case, what Pleasure will you be the Author of to your Darling; for nothing pleases the Female Sex more, than to see the Work of Generation go on. By this you will make an Addition to your Wife's Associates and Favourites, who may be very useful to drive Fancies from her Brain, and extract Money from your Pocket.

If your Spouse's Judgment should fail her in the Choice of Household Furniture; doubt not but she will meet with variety of skilful Instructors, who will be always at hand to describe to her every Alteration in the Fashions, and point out to her, where she may lay out your Money to the best Advantage. These Ladies are extremely skilful in the Art of furnishing a House, so that you never need to dispute with your Spouse, about the Hanging of a Picture: They'll presently insinuate, that 'tis much more genteel and elegant to have
that

that Place ador'd with China. Can any tender Husband deny it? Then the Furniture of this, that, and the other Room, is of a very low Taste, or intirely out of Fashion; Madam falls in with their Judgment, has them all taken down, to make Room for such as will better suit with her Fortune and Dignity. Thus, like privy Counsellors about a minor Prince, do they kindly exert their Talents for the Instruction and Pleasure of your Spouse. Happy Man, what canst thou wish for more!

Dost thou regret the Money! Pish, that's a Trifle; give it liberally; Madam knows how to lay it out. But if Cash runs short, be silent about it, lest it happen to create Uneasiness in the tender Breast of your Beloved, and thereby endanger her Health. ---- Poor Creature, 'tis Trouble and Fatigue enough for her, and oftentimes breaks in upon her necessary Repose, to consider of, and contrive the most expeditious Methods of introducing Plenty and Variety.

And now, O *tender Husband*, you are conducted to the first Step of the instructive School of Patience; it is therefore highly unbecoming to give the least Hint of Thriftiness or Frugality: Or that Trading decays, and Money is hard to come at; that Notes, Bonds, and Bills must be discharg'd; No, by no Means. Smother your Concern and counterfeit Serenity; unless you are dispos'd to draw down upon your Head the heavy Resentment of a justly provoked Wife.

Rather let *Socrates* be your Instructor, to teach you Silence, and patiently to submit yourself to the Guidance and Direction of your Wife; so shall you possess the Quintessence of this superlative Pleasure, and with joyful Steps enter upon the following.



B O O K. III.

Our young Couple walk abroad; are courteously treated by all their Acquaintance; with their Journey into the Country for Pleasure; and other Things of great Importance to know.

AS it is true, that there is a spacious Field of Mirth and Pleasure for the young married Couple to range in, so it is equally certain, that the Way thither is as fertile of unknown Joys and Delights. --- Seeing it was impossible to invite every one to the *Wedding*, therefore our sweet VENUS must be conducted Abroad with all the Splendor and Pomp of costly Dress and Equipage, to be shewn to our Bridegroom's Friends and Acquaintance: Nay, the whole Town must be Witness to the Beauty of her Person, and the Harmony of their Behaviour. To this Purpose she exalts her Voice thro' every Street to be heard, and eagerly stares into every House to observe her Admirers.

What superlative Joy is here! they can hardly go half the Length of a Street, but they are saluted by some or other of their Friends, with ten Thousand Wishes for their Health, Happiness and Prosperity; with such a Profusion of Praises upon the Bride, as create an unspeakable Pleasure in the Mind of her Spouse. Others invite them to walk in, where after the usual Wishes and Salutations, the Bowl goes round, attended with frequent Repetitions of Health, long Life and Happiness.

Well, thinks the young unmarried Lady, what





a surprizing Difference there is between a married Woman and a Maid ! Every one respects, treats, and honours her. ---- She's every Day visiting and taking her Pleasures ; and is embraced and carefs'd with all the Tokens of the most ardent and inviolable Friendship. Her Wonder ceases at the eager Desires Women have to Matrimony ; nor is she at a Loss to account for their rushing a second and a third Time into the Estate, even before their former Husbands are cold in the Grave. Oh, says she, what a Fulness of Joy and Felicity there is in a married Life !

But this, great as it is, is only an Introduction to more Delight : Fresh Invitations are crouding in from every Quarter to Entertainments ; many of which being as costly and grand as that of their Wedding, our Couple are not a little delighted, that they are always preferr'd to the Head of the Table. If Madam is out of Order next Morning, her tender Spouse knowing her Constitution, proposes a Journey into the Air, or a Voyage upon the *Thames* : If the Latter is approved of, there's immediately a Pleasure-Barge ready, with brawny Slaves to execute her Will. Thrice happy State ! Oh, that the grand Luminary would now stand still to view the happy Pair, and thereby add some few Hours more to the declining Day ! Well, he's certainly blind who can't see the abundant Pleasures of Matrimony.

Invitations from Friends being at a Stand, and the young Couple having had some few Days Respite, Madam proposes taking a Country-Journey together ; first to Places adjacent, afterwards to some more remote : And having heard great Commendations of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, she intends them a Visit ; and afterwards, my Dear, says she, we will go to *York*, *Glocester* and *Bristol*, for I have been credibly inform'd, that the Coun-

18 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

tries there about are exceeding pleasant, and all Accommodations extraordinary cheap. Nor would I for all the World, adds she, miss *Herefordshire*; pray therefore, my Dear, indulge me with an Opportunity of tasting some unadulterated Cyder and Perry, which is no where else to be had; and as to *Kent*, tho' I must make one Journey thither, yet that I'll defer till after our Return to *London*. Ah, my Dear, says she, pray let us set out next Week at farthest.

Certain it is, that the good Man hears these his Spouse's Proposals with great Reluctancy, having no Inclination to be so long absent from Business, for what with Courting, Wedding, Feasting, and taking Pleasure, he finds his Substance already considerably diminish'd; but alas, all his Attempts to dissuade her are fruitless, for, you may as well

*Controul the Wind, and calm the Ocean's Foam,
As make a tattling Gossip stay at Home;
Some Men to Business, some to Pleasure fall,
But Women at their Hearts, are Rakish all.*

She dreams of her intended Journey by Night, and incessantly talks on it by Day; this is her Language: If we don't take our Pleasure now we are young, when shall we? You know, my Dear, that a Year hence, I may have a Child, and then I must bid adieu to all Diversion, I then shall be ty'd by the Leg; and truly, I don't see why we should not take our Pleasure as well as Mrs. Gad-out and her Husband, or Mrs. Hate-bone and her Husband, I am sure we can as well afford it; they were abroad two Months together this Summer; you know my Dear, that my Mother, or my Cousin Save-all, will look to the House in our Absence; therefore, let us away; for the first Year you know will never return.

Well, what shall the good Man do? if he con-

sults his Peace, his Wife must have her Will. He loves her too well to oppose her Desires with Violence ; his Father taught him this Sentence for a Marriage Lesson, *Beware of making the first Difference.* He is not willing therefore, to give his Spouse harsh Language, lest that should occasion it, and be an Interruption to the Pleasures of the Matrimonial State.

The good Man no sooner complies, but Madam immediately orders a new laced Riding Habit, Hat, Wig, and several other Necessaries, as she calls 'em, for the Journey. Their best Apparel is pack'd up and sent before by the Carrier, that they may appear before their Friends in the Country with Credit and Reputation.

Well, away they go, every one wishing them Health, Prosperity, and a safe Return. But see ! they are hardly ten Miles from *London*, before our Traveller is so ill with the bounding of her Horse, that every Thing about her seems to be in a circular Motion, which affects so strongly her tender Stomach, that she's just ready to disgorge all its Contents. Down jumps her Spouse, to give her some Assistance ; but what can he do, no House being near ? At last the poor Lady falls into a Swoon : Oh Heavens ! who suffers most ? Madam's insensible, and he poor Creature, frantick with Surprise ; he sighs and laments excessively, calls upon her, she hears him not, which throws him into inexpressible Torments and Agonies. Well, at last his Angel begins to shew some Indications of Life, and soon after recovers Strength enough to walk a few Yards to and again, to his unspeakable Joy. After a while they remount, and ride softly on for fear of a Relapse ; the good Man thinking every Step a Mile 'till he arrives at some Inn, where his dearly beloved may perfect her Recovery.

Truly, I must confess, that if this is one of the Pleasures of Matrimony, 'tis but a very sorry one : But stay a little, yonders the Steeple, we shall be there presently ; the Trouble and Vexation you have met with, will soon be sufficiently recompenced by the beautiful Situation of the Place, and the kind Reception you meet with. The young Lady's Stomach being cleans'd by her Disorder, will with the Help of the open Air, strongly solícite her to recruit ; the good Man the mean while is contriving to pay the first Visit, where he thinks his poor wearied Spouse will receive the warmest Caresses and best Entertainment ; this, he hopes, will effectually banish from her Mind all Ideas of the Sickness and Fatigue of her Journey. They walk abroad, see the Rarities, visit his Friends and Relations, every one wishing them Joy, emulating each other in Acts of Kindness and Hospitality, which I assure is you no small Pleasure ; but every Thing must have an End : Madam now begins to talk of visiting some other City ; but she'll travel no further on Horseback, lest the same Calamity should befall her again.

Well, our indulgent Husband provides her a Coach, and the great Trunk is fastned behind ; and that they may go off with the greater State and Grandeur, the Coach is order'd to their Friends Door. Well, in they get amidst a thousand Wishes, that Content, Pleasure and Delight, may attend upon them thro' the whole of their Journey. Then drive on Coachman is the Word, and away fly the poor Jades thro' the Street, striking Fire out of the lifeless Stones, as tho' the God *Pluto* was upon his Flight with his beloved *Proserpine*.

But, O thoughtless Couple, consider what a vast Expence will attend this needless Ramble ! And tho' the young Enamorata is convinced that a few such Journeys as these will make him a Bankrupt ;

yet

yet he prudently prefers Peace, Quietness, and the Pleasure of his Spouse to all other Considerations. Nay, as these are the *first Fruits and Pleasures of Marriage*, Madam thinks they are greatly obstructed by every Thought of Home, and therefore endeavours to divert the Mind of her Spouse, from attending to any Thing beyond the present Enjoyments. In the mean Time, the Servants at Home are following the Example of the young Couple Abroad. For, as they are under no Restraint, they keep open House to all their Companions and Associates; and at every Visit that they receive, down goes the Spit, and on goes the Pot; and if *Beer, Wine, Brandy*, or any Thing else in the House are wanting; the most secure Locks are made to give Way to their pretty Devices and Stratagems: This I could illustrate by numberless Examples, but they would be useless, especially to those who for any Length of Time, have committed their Affairs to Servants: Thus every Hand is some Way or other, employed to render this loving Couple superlatively Happy.

These are also some of the *Delights of Marriage*; and tho' the Helps that the Servants of our young Couple afford, to bring on the End, to which they both with speedy Steps are hastening, may seem trifling and but of small Importance; yet they are no less sure and certain, as many have felt to their Cost.

What Matter of Surprise is it therefore, if your House-Rent has been great, your *pleasuring frequent*, your *Servants unnecessary, wasteful and expensive*, and all this to please and recreate the Darling of your Heart; what Wonder is it, I say, if at the Year's End, the Decrease of your Substance sounds loudly in your Ears, *Oh miserable Pleasure!*

But, the greatest Calamity in this Delight, appears immediately upon your Return Home. Observe your Spouse,

Spouse, alas ! She's so prodigiously fatigued with travelling from Place to Place, that her very Bones are almost dislocated ; her Back, poor Creature, is in such violent Pain, that she is not able to walk a-crofs her Chamber ; 'tis impossible for her to rise before Noon, nor even then, unless there is ready provided for her some costly Delicacy, to please her disorder'd Appetite. ----- In the mean Time your Servants are simpering, giggling, and rejoicing ; desiring nothing more than that Madam may always continue as she is, that they may have the more Liberty to indulge themselves and Confederates, at the Family-Expence. The Eyes of *Argus* are not numerous, or quick enough to detect 'em ; for should you suspect their Conduct, they have Excuses at all Times ready to delude you. But these Things are more frequent and predominant, when a cunning Slut of a Maid has got the Length of her Mistress's Foot. In such Cases, you must have two Maids, when one is sufficient, and often a Chairwoman ; the one to do your Maids Work, the other to go of her Errands, that Business may the sooner be dispatch'd, and that she may be ready the sooner to go a gadding with her Mistress. -----

And as *Peggy* is so well acquainted with her Mistress's Humour, and Method of Managing the Family ; she poor Creature is released from a World of Trouble and Fatigue, and may therefore with the greatest Security indulge herself in Rest, Dressing, or Reading of Plays at her Pleasure. If the Husband, upon his Return from the *Exchange*, should seem any Ways uneasy at the Disorder that appears in every Apartment ; *Peggy* immediately complains, that her poor Mistress has been afflicted with such unsufferable Pains in her Head, Belly and Back, that all their Time has been employ'd in endeavouring to procure her some Relief ; and that is the Reason

The Pleasures of Marriage. 23

Reason Sir, says the Hussy, that Things are in this Confusion and Disorder; this at once stops the good Man's Mouth.

If at any Time he insinuates that the Chairwoman puts them to an unnecessary Expence. She answers thus: *Prithee, My Dear, give yourself no Trouble about these Things; --- I am surpriz'd at you; they are entirely out of your Province; pray leave them to me; I warrant you I am able to manage the Affairs of my Family without your Directions; surely 'tis a Woman's Business, and not a Man's, to intermeddle with the Affairs of the Maids; besides, my Dear, the Expence of a Chairwoman or Semstress three or four Days in a Week, is not worth Notice.*

This female Harangue, if he values his Peace, must give him entire Satisfaction; and being made in the Presence of *Peggy*, who communicates it to the rest, they are thereby encouraged to call him in their Mistresses hearing, *a Cott, Tom peep in the Pot, Goodman Busy-body*, and the like.

At Dinner, *Peggy* takes Occasion to ask *Madam* if she won't go by and by, and pay Mrs. *Moody* a Visit, or chat a little with *Madam Eleanor*? 'Twill divert you *Madam*, says she, as you seem to be not very well; she'll be vastly delighted to hear the Story of the *North-Country Gentleman*, you having such a charming, lively Manner of telling it; and I am certain, she wants greatly to see you. Dinner is no sooner over, but a Coach is call'd, and away go *Madam*, and her Maid *Peggy*.

It certainly affords no small Pleasure to the Husband, to observe the Harmony and Agreement subsisting in his Family, a strong Proof of the complying Temper of his Spouse. But the Advantage he reaps by it is great, for *Peggy* by her cunning Insinuations and Instructions, has sufficiently convinced her Mistress, that the Pleasures of the Town are vastly superior to those of the Country; so that
the

24 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

the good Man is under no Apprehensions of the Expenſe of a ſecond Country Journey.

Behold, O LOVERS, what a Multiplicity of Roſes, Lillies, and delicious Fruits ſpring up in the very Entrance of the ſpacious Garden of Marriage! Ponder well then, what the Middle of that fertile Plat may produce !



B O O K IV.

*The buxom Dame gossips with her Neighbours,
complains ſhe is not with Child, conſults the
Doſtor, is order'd Phyſick, with other
Matters too engaging to be overlook'd.*

O UR young Couple, having abundantly enjoy'd the Pleaſures that flow from being feaſt-
ed and careſs'd ; from travelling about, and view-
ing Curioſities ; from ſhewing themſelves to each
others Relations ; but eſpecially, *O raviſhing De-
light !* in diſcerning how grandly and ſumptuouſly
they can be entertain'd for their Money ; they
come at laſt, ſurprizing Alteration ! to diſcover the
Emptineſs and Vanity of all ; and have therefore
longing Deſires to be at Home again to purſue their
reſpective Employments. Verily, this is the happy
Period, that the Huſband has been long expecting :
Now he begins to hope that his Affairs will be
thoroughly regulated, and that his loving Spouſe
alſo, will, like a good Houſewife, attend to the
Management of the Houſhold Concerns with
double Diligence ; which, when it is the Caſe,
what Joy does the good Man experience ?

But





But O, kind Husband, set some Bounds, some reasonable Limits to your new experienc'd Happiness; ----- don't imagine that you are now in the high Road to all Fulness of Joy; wait but a few Days, and Experience will undeceive you.

For the Wife has not been long at Home, before she begins to be terribly uneasy; not knowing how to accommodate herself to this unexperienced Way of Life; nor can she comfort herself to converse with this new Maid; 'tis exceeding irksome to be shewing her this, commanding her that; and far worse to be at the Pains of examining into Affairs, which she never before in her Life gave herself any Trouble about; then the Strangeness of her new Habitation, and the Remembrance of her Father's House, are ready to distract her; insomuch that our fond Husband has Work enough upon his Hands to chase these imaginary Difficulties from her Brain, and with Kisses to dry up those Tears, which are incessantly flowing. The poor Man has scarcely pacify'd her, and brought her to Temper, but another Cloud approaches, and eclipses all his Joys.

Madam, by this Time, has got some Acquaintance in the Neighbourhood, which she so carefully cultivates, that in a short Time, her Visits are so frequent, that she is much more Abroad than at Home. Here she becomes acquainted with Mrs. *Wanton*, who introduces her to Mrs. *Breed-well*, who is very busy in getting up her *Child-bed Linen*, her Reckoning being near expir'd. Then she is also very intimate with modest Mrs. *Long-for't*, whose want of a great Belly fills her Mouth with Complaints; and her Eyes with Tears; nor is she a Stranger to Mrs. *Young-at-it*, who is always bragg-ing that she dates her Reckoning from the very first Embrace. Lord, says she to herself, I have been now a Wife full three Months, and am still an utter

26 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Stranger to the Pleasures these Women enjoy ; what can possibly be the Reason of it ?

This extreemly afflicts our young Gentlewoman, and sets her Invention to work to discover the genuine Cause : And woe be to the good Man, if he has been deficient. To the End therefore that she may satisfy her Curiosity, she in a full Assembly of her female Associates, mighty modestly relates every Circumstance of what pass'd between her and her Husband ; not only the first Time they bedded, but ever since, in order that she may draw from them the like Confession ; this answers her End, for they one after another begin to expatiate upon the Furniture and Performances of their Husbands ; in which Relations, the disconsolate Lady easily discovers several Particulars, which far exceed what she herself ever experienced, which shocks her extreemly.

However they not only pity her, but they advise her frequently to provide for the good Man, *Eggs, Oysters, Cockscombs, Sweet-breads, Lambs-Stones, Eryngo Root, &c.* at the same Time he must be persuaded to restrain from *Tobacco, Coffee,* and every Thing else that *dries the Body, or cools the Kidneys* ; nor must he omit going to the *Coffee-House* every Morning, to drink plentifully of *Chocolate*. They conclude with advising Madam, to be continually dallying with him, to expose before him her *naked Bosom*, and by every *wanton Posture* endeavour to solícite him to embrace her, not only more frequently, but with the greater Vigour.

Who can doubt, but she will soon put this into Execution ? O happy Man, who art every Day regaled with the most luxurious and delicious Dainties ! and hast the Liberty of attending the *Coffee-House* every Morning, without those bitter Reflections, with which many are loaded by their Wives.

The Pleasures of Marriage. 27

Wives. And not only so, but your Wife beautiful as an Angel, is continually embracing and kissing you with unspeakable Eagerness and Rapture!

But alas! if after all this, Madam finds not the desired Alteration, her Countenance falls, her whole Behaviour is rude and abrupt, and she soon begins, by expatiating upon her own Youth, Willingness, Health, and promising Appearance, to call in Question the *Virility* of her Husband. Astonished with this unexpected Accusation, the poor despised Husband endeavours his own Vindication, &c. calling in to his Assistance, *Aristotle*, *Culpeper*, *Salmon*, and others: But all to no Purpose, she still complains, and must have a Child soon, or she shall run distracted. From this Time, the House is more a Burthen to her than ever; being always Abroad, and continually kissing, hugging and embracing her Neighbours Children to such a Degree, that many of 'em are more fond of her than of their own Mothers.

This gadding Abroad, does undoubtedly a little trouble her Spouse; but then, he considers that by this Means she will be acquainted with nursing, and the Management of young Children without any Charge; but he is the better reconcil'd to her Absence, in that he is freed from her Groans, Sighs and Complaints; for besides these, when she's at Home, his Ears are saluted with nothing but a Description of the Beauty and pretty Actions of some Neighbour's Child; and generally fums up the whole, with declaring that she'd part with all she is worth in the World, could she but be Mother of such a one.

The good Man, almost distracted at his Wife's Affliction, and finding all his Attempts to pacify her, only encreases the Disorder; he is determin'd at last to consult a Physician for himself, and to

28 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

recommend Madam to the Assistance of some old Doctresses and Midwives. He therefore applies him to a *French* Doctor, eminently renown'd for removing the Causes of Barrenness in Women, and Impotency in Men. And why should he doubt of Success, when *Monsieur* by strengthening the generative Faculties, has been the happy Instrument of giving Existence to some Scores of smiling Infants, who, without his Assistance, had never had a Being? The good Woman also consults with her Female Physicians, that if the Fault is on her Side, it may be happily removed.

To this End, there are as many Phials and Galypots sent in, as would stock an Apothecary's Shop: And her Ladyship is made the Receptacle of a thousand Medicaments, the better to dispose her for Conception.

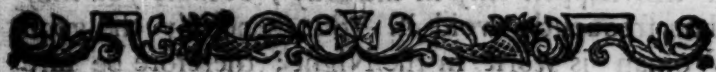
The good Man, that he may have nothing to accuse himself of, is very exact in taking inwardly, every three Hours, a certain Number of Chymical Drops, upon which the *French* Doctor bestowed the highest Encomiums.

Well, if all this will not answer Madam's End, what shall the poor Man have Recourse to next? If costly Apparel will content her, he'll buy them for her: And altho' her Pride and Ambition many Times, are not consistent with the Constitution of his Pocket, yet he will not oppose her, hoping that while she is exercising her Thoughts about Finery and Grandeur, she will, at least for some Time, lay aside her Reproaches and Lamentations for the Want of a Child; and if in this Interim his earnest Wishes and vigorous Endeavours, should be crown'd with Fertility, what Mortal could add to his Felicity, or conceive his Joy?

BOOK







BOOK V.

Joyful News, Madam proves with Child, and longs; with the Pleasures that attend both: Also some remarkable Accidents, not taken Notice of by any other Author.

WELL, the Clouds that have long obstructed the Happiness of our loving Couple, are dispell'd, and the Sun-shine of as yet unknown Joys is breaking forth upon 'em. *Madam* has at last conceived. Of what infinite Service are *Doctors* and *Midwives*? Now, O young Woman, is the Time for you to be extremely cautious and careful, lest inadvertently you occasion the Fruit to fall before tis thorough Ripe: The Consequences of which, as all good Women affirm, are much more to be dreaded, than the most violent Pains of *Childbearing*. As for you, her kind indulgent Husband, who have behav'd yourself so vigorously, continue now to reap the delightful Reward of your Labour. If you are still desirous of Pleasure, Joy and Happiness, disdain to take notice of small Matters. You must now view every Thing at a Distance, as thro' a Glass. And as your Beloved possesses infinitely more Charms than ever she did before, so must your Care, Tenderness and Concern for her, vastly exceed any you ever before express'd. Does she sigh, groan, or grumble; or, does she fretfully and peevishly insult the Servants, or yourself; pass it by as the necessary and unavoidable Consequences of her Pregnancy. But rejoice, and be exceeding glad
if

if this happen only in the Day ; because you may then frequently avoid it. But generally the good Woman is worst in the Night ; therefore be sure to have always at Hand the best *Citron, Clove, Cinnamon* and *Plague-Waters*, that you may express your Love, by being prepar'd to assist her. If your dearest should disturb you in the Night, which is often the Case, with Complaints of Pains in the Back, Head, Dizziness and Lowness of Spirits, tho' it be never so cold, you must rise with all Speed, to call all the Servants about to her Assistance. And this is a new Pleasure, and it must be acknowledged a great one.

But tho' the foregoing be a very great Pleasure to every tender Husband, yet the following one is infinitely greater.

At every Entertainment that the young Couple are invited to, the big-belly'd Woman, before any Person presumes to touch a Bit, must, with a thousand genteel Compliments be prevail'd upon to help her self of what she best likes ; and tho' she excuses herself, and declares that she has no Fancy to any Thing in particular, yet it only serves to make the Company more urgent : And if she by chance casts her Eye upon the Plate of one of the Guests, 'tis immediately presum'd that she Longs ; and who would be so brutish, as not to oblige her to accept it ? By this Means the poor Lady is oftentimes obliged to rise from Table, and being over-charged, is almost ready to faint. Here all Hands are employ'd : One loosens her Stays, another chafes her Temples, a third applies *Sal Volatile*, or *Hartshorn* to her Nostrils, and all the Company are crouding themselves close together, that Madam may have Air ; these, with the Help of a Glass of Brandy, restores her fleeting Spirits. And tho' she finds that this Practice has generally the same Effect upon her, yet she frequently repeats it, to the
great

great Joy and Consolation of her Husband.

Madam having sufficiently indulged herself this Way; she now takes it into her Head, that sitting too much will hinder the Growth of the Child. The good Man willing to have the Credit of a jolly Boy, gives in to his Spouse's Opinion; upon which she goes every Day a Pratling and Gossiping from one Place to another, leaving her Husband without a Wife, and the Family without a Mistress.

As every Thing grows tiresome by Degrees, so Madam begins to desire a Change: She pretends that she's too heavy to walk without Assistance, and therefore her Spouse must accompany her, that she may lean upon his Arm. How tenderly he complies with the Motion! She longs for Fruit, but it must be of her own gathering. Well, out they set, but in a little Time she becomes so excessively weary, that if her Life was to lye at Stake, she can't set one Foot farther. Well, what's to be done now? she must not venture on Horseback for the World, that might occasion a Miscarriage; and a Coach, if it might be safe, is perhaps not to be had. If you are near the River, why the Water may be rough; and that would surprize her indeed: But if it is intirely calm, perhaps there's never a Waterman: If you find a Waterman, who knows but he may be in Liquor, and who would then entrust him with such a valuable Cargoe? Well, if these are not exquisite Pleasures, what are?

However, if after all any happy Expedient may be found, to convey your lovely Charge safe Home, it will be no small Joy. Well, make yourself as easy as you can, to the End that other Troubles may have the less Effect upon you.

The good Woman growing pretty big, asserts her Privilege, which is to be supply'd with all she asks,

32 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

asks, or longs for. And what Man that loves a Woman, and has any Tenderneſs for the Fruit of her Womb, can be cruel enough to oppoſe her? What, tho' her Longings are frequent and expenſive, is not every Huſband ſufficiently rewarded, by that ſecret inexpressible Pleaſure which always attend him, while he is generously ſupplying her Wants. Miſerable is that Huſband, whoſoever he be, whoſe Soul is not ſuſceptible of theſe tender Impreſſions; 'tis very certain that theſe Longings vary with the Seasons, as in the Summer for *Oranges, Asparagus, Strawberries* and *Wine, Cherries, Plumbs, Peaches, Apricots, &c.*

Now let Madam long for any, or all of theſe, tho' they ſhould be ever ſo difficult to come at, or expenſive to purchaſe, ſhe muſt have her Fill, for who would hazard the Loſs, or Diſfigurement of a Child, and the firſt Child too, got alſo with ſo much Charge and Difficulty, for ſuch Trifles.

When the later Fruits are in Season, Madam ſings over-again the ſame Tune; poor Creature, how can ſhe help it? If this Hour ſhe longs for *Catherine Pears*, the next Hour ſhe is equally deſirous of *Golden-Pippins*; then ſhe has a Mind to *Filberds*, and an Hour after to *Walnuts* or *Grapes*. Do what you will, there's no Help for it, her longing muſt be ſatisfied. Thus is the poor young Creature harraſ'd from one Thing to another.

There is no Season of the Year that exempts our breeding Women from theſe Difficulties ---- In Winter they long for *Pomgranates, Cheſnuts* and *Wine*; then *Colcheſter-Oyſters*; anon for *Green Geese*, or *Young Chickens*; with a thouſand other Delicacies, that preſent themſelves to their diſorder'd Imaginations ----

The poor Woman, whoſe Longing is the Conſequence of her *Pregnancy*, is O indulgent Spouſe,
the

the Object of thy tender Compassion and Regard ; but how often does she hanker after the same, nay, frequently more expensive Things, that she may indulge her luxurious Appetite, when her Pretensions to Pregnancy are either precarious, or whimsical. ---- This liquorish Palate of her's, frequently drives the good Man out of Bed in the middle of the Night ; and tho' it rains, blows, or snows ever so excessively, he goes thro' all, with the greatest Eagerness and Pleasure imaginable. And when, the good Woman finds to her Sorrow, that she is not with Child, she immediately, to keep up her Credit with her Husband, pretends to be taken very ill, and in a Day or two after miscarries, charging all upon her Spouse's not furnishing her with something that she long'd for.

However, if Madam is really with Child, what with her eating excessively of raw Fruits, Multiplicity of Sweetmeats, swallowing down Quarts of Cyder, and Wine of various Qualities ; she begins at last, to be violently afflicted with the Cholick, and other very grievous and lamentable Pains. This introduces a Train of unexperienced Pleasures : The Doctor is immediately sent for, who orders Cordials and other exhilarating Draughts to be taken, which, however, she is soon weary of. And as his Prescriptions are not so agreeable to her, as something that may give Pleasure to her Palate ; she declares, that she is certain that the Doctor has mistaken her Case, her Modesty preventing her from telling him the whole of her Complaints. The Midwife therefore, my Dear, must be sent for ; she's better acquainted than he, with Women's Affairs. *Mother Midnight* immediately appears, and having very minutely enter'd into the Nature of Madam's Disorders, advises her to be of good Cheer, assuring her that Lowness of Spirits is the only Cause and Origin of all. Let us but remove that, Child, says
F she,

34 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

she, and all your other Complaints will vanish of course. Provide yourself therefore with the best *White-wine*, simmer it with *Spices*, *Orange-Peel*, and *Lump-Sugar*, over the Fire, and as often as you find yourself in Pain, sickish, or faint, drink plentifully : And as to more solid Medicines, the most effectual in your Case, are to be met with at the *Confectioners*, or *Pastry-cooks* ; but be sure, above all Things, indulge yourself every two or three Hours with a Glass of the best *Sack* ; this strengthens and invigorates the Child in the Womb, and will greatly facilitate its Passage out of it.

Who doubts, but that Madam prefers the Advice of her *Midwife* to that of the Doctor, her Directions being such that may be comply'd with, by the most delicate and tender Constitution ; but as to physical Remedies, it is observable, she has often heard Doctor *Drink-all* say, that Medicines taken with Reluctancy, or Antipathy, are never of Advantage to the Patient.

Thus, *O approaching Father*, you are ascended one Step higher towards the Pinnacle of true Glory and solid Happiness. Your heroick Deeds, in the Field of Love, immortalize your Fame, and the fond Embraces, and tender Glances of your now contented Spouse, serve to augment your Joy ! Her Language is now expressive of the most ardent Love, and indicates her great Approbation of, and Delight in your masculine Embraces. ----

Hide not then from others, the Pleasures and Felicities thou art happily advanced to ; rejoyce also, that the greatest and most substantial are yet in Reserve : Pleasures which will not only lighten your Heart, but your Purse also, much more effectually than those you have already experienc'd.

Comfort yourself also with this, that thro' the timely Assistance of the Doctor, the Midwife, and your own Endeavours, you may at length be the happy
Parent





Parent of a numerous and beautiful Issue; not only to the aggrandizing of your Name and Ability Abroad, but to the Honour of your Family, and Delight of your Spouse at Home.



B O O K VI.

Childbed Linen is to be provided ; the Care of the Infant ; Choice of a Midwife and Nurse ; vastly important as well to the Husband as his Spouse and Child.

Delightful Sight ! Our good Woman's Petticoats and Aprons are shortning a great Pace ; which, with an engaging Fall in the Back, displays to the ravish'd Beholder a Pair of Legs, not swell'd in the least, but attended with all the Advantage of Symetry and just Proportion : Now, the Virility and Vigour of the Husband, and the Healthfulness and Docility of the Wife, are express'd in evident and undeniable Characteristicks.

Now, Oh happiest of Mortals, you are under no terrifying Apprehensions of a fatal Miscarriage to damp your Joys, or subject you to the Derision of your scoffing Neighbours, who are apt to imagine a Miscarriage to be nothing else but a *Matrimonial-Cloak* for Barrenness or Impotency. Your Manhood has also delivered you from the unjust Suspicions, and heart-breaking Reflections that you have heretofore labour'd under, from your mistaken Wife ; which you was obliged then to submit to, and hide, till Madam's Pregnancy should declare your Praise.

These Dangers are now all over, and you, O

36 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Source of Joys unknown, will soon be saluted with the welcome Name, *Pappa!* pleasing and acceptable as *Bridegroom* was before.

In the mean Time your Spirits are greatly elated, with hearing the exact Account your Darling keeps of every Week and Day. How heavily the Time rowls on, he cries; yet it must be very amusing to consider, that the nearer she approaches to the Time of her Delivery, the more frequent and loving are her Kisses and Embraces. ---- Now you begin to perceive that a fruitful Womb cements Affection, and kindles fresh Desires.

Well, our good Woman now begins to employ her whole Care and Attention towards preparing her Baby-Things; and, tho' there are in the Family and House, many other Affairs that seem to demand her Attention; yet, poor Creature, her Spirits are so fatigued with the former, that she can't bestow a single Thought upon the latter. Indeed 'tis no Wonder; for she has besides this, her Visitors to entertain with copious Discourses of her Condition, through the whole Course of her Pregnancy, which she relates very circumstantially; and as this, together with the Expiration of her Reckoning, are Subjects of a very extensive Nature; so nothing is more common than for Madam herein to spend three or four Hours at a Time, to the great Edification of a very attentive Auditory. How happy would it be, were our Clergy so seriously attended! This is a very great Consolation to the Maids; the Subject before between Madam and her Neighbours, being chiefly about the Wages, Housewifry, Dress, Vices, &c. but seldom about the Virtues of those female Domesticks ----

How entertaining it must be to the Husband, to observe the Care of his Dearest, in contriving and calculating with Mrs. *Stitch-quick* the Milliner, about the necessary Quantity of Linen for *Baby-Things*.

Things. How diligent she is in taking the exact Dimensions of every different Piece of *Childbed-Furniture*, to the End that she may not run her *Husband* to unnecessary Charges.

Well, away she goes to buy two or three Pieces of *Holland* and *Cambrick*, not forgetting a proportionate Quantity of *Laces* and *Edgings*; the Contents, or Expence of which, what *Husband* would obliterate his Joy and Felicity to enquire into?

Certainly our *Husband* is unspeakably happy, in having a Wife so indefatigable, in procuring every Thing in Time that she may stand in need off. See how solicitous she is, that nothing may be omitted, and how uneasy is she, now the Materials are bought, to provide the most expert and expeditious Persons to make them up.

But as this requires Time to be effected, so before 'tis accomplish'd, you'll find your ever careful Spouse equally embarrassed about the Choice of a *Midwife* and Nurse, because upon this, depend very much the Life both of the dear Infant and its Mother. Let it not, therefore, in the least disturb you, but rather be pleasing and acceptable, if she be continually teasing you, and craving your Opinion and Advice in the Choice of this, that, or the other Person: for hereby, you will have an Occasion to observe her great Care ---- And this will be farther illustrated, that among the great Variety of *Midwives* recommended to her, she is very cautious in chusing; for one is too young and unexperienc'd, another is *too old and fumbling*, a third is very *clumsy*. *Fisted*, the fourth is always Drinking and Smoaking, and the fifth will deafen you with her Noise --- In short, there are so many Defects in each, that the poor Woman stands greatly in need of Counsellors.

The like Trouble has she in the Choice of a *Nurse*, for, after having spent a Month in enquiring

38 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

ing among her Neighbours, she can hear of none without Faults ; and some of 'em very great ones ; for one is *very nasty and fluttish*, another is *idle and sauntering*, another *too dainty*, a fourth is *pert and saucy* ; one *eats too much*, another *drinks too much* ; one is *too free with the Maids*, or *too great with the Men*. There is one or two indeed, that she could fancy very well ; but then, they have not a good Knack in tossing up a little Delicacy, in a Manner suitable to the Weakness of Madam's Appetite ; which is a Matter of very great Importance.

Behold ! then, how the poor Creature is surrounded with Difficulties. And, notwithstanding she is so heavy and cumbersome, that 'tis with the utmost Difficulty that she moves from Chair to Chair ; yet her Care to manage her Concerns with Reputation to her Spouse, are in no Degree lessened ; what an industrious Wife you have ! ----

Well, she has at last, tho' with immense Difficulty, provided herself with a *Midwife* and *Nurse* ; yet still she finds no End to her Care. She now recollects some Necessaries that were omitted in the Hurry of her former Affairs ; as, a *Cradle* for the Child ; a *Skreen* to environ the Chimney ; then again, she must have new *Hangings*, and *Window-Curtains*, a *Down-Bed* for her Ease ; a *Silver Caudle-Cup*, *Candlesticks*, and a curious *Mantle*, for the *Christening* ---- so that the good Man need not fear the Circulation of his Money. How happy will your good Wife be, when once these troublesome Affairs are over, that she may have Time to give Orders, for the clearing the House from Top to Bottom ; for what a Scandal will it be should she be taken in Labour, and the House in such Confusion and Disorder, at such a Time as that, the Gossips being very busy in making ill-natur'd Observations.

These

The Pleasures of Marriage. 39

These Things do so excessively disturb her, that they engross all her Thoughts by Day, and frequently break in upon her Repose at Night ; so that she is often obliged to lye in Bed till Noon, in order to supply that Deficiency ; and if she happens at any Time to be employing her Thoughts too intensely, about her approaching Labour-Pains, poor Creature, how it shocks her ; she seems to be turning inside out, and has not Spirits sufficient to declare to those about her, the Nature and Cause of her Disorder. ---- If she is thus seiz'd in the Night, her *Husband*, distracted with Grief and Concern, jumps out of Bed, tho' in the Depth of Winter ; rouzes all his Servants in order to procure some *Cinnamon*, *Annis-seed*, or *Plague-Water*, to recover his *Dearest* from such sudden and threatning Symptoms ; and if by a timely Administration of some of these, her Complaints are either remov'd or mitigated, what rapturous Pleasures are the Consequence !

Happy, thrice happy Man, whose Happiness is thus visibly augmented, with the Increase of his Experience. ----

Well, Madam has not a Moment to reckon ; and the Time is now at Hand, when the highest Encomiums will be bestow'd upon you, for the infinite Care you have taken of, and affectionate Regard you expressed to the Wife of your Bosom, thro' the whole Course of her Pregnancy : Now will your Labours meet with a superabundant Reward, your Relations will e'er long come and congratulate you also, upon the Augmentation of your Happiness, and upon the Dignity of *Father*, to which you are happily arriv'd ; and will request it as the greatest Honour you can do them, that you suffer them to be Sponsors in Behalf of the charming Infant ; and as an Acknowledgement of so great a Favour conferr'd upon them above others, their

40 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

their Liberality to their *God-Child* will know no Bounds. ----

Who then, in his Senses, but would gladly suffer the Ill-conveniencies of a teeming Wife, and cheerfully sustain all the Expences attending, to be so greatly honoured, esteem'd and respected by all his Friends and Relations?

'Tis high Time therefore, for you, (as you have sufficiently stock'd your Cellar with Wine, and other Liquors) to go and select out some of the most delicious, to the End that your Spouse's Visitants may be entertain'd in a Manner that may express the unbounded Joy of your Heart, at the Dignity and Happiness you are advanc'd to. ----

Solace yourself therefore for the present, with the Expectation of the Pleasures that are to follow. ----



BOOK VII.

The good Woman falls in Labour; with various other entertaining Concomitants.

BEhold, young Couple, and consider, what Time is elapsed, and what a Sea of Pleasures you have already waded thro', which demonstrates to you the superlative Happiness of a married Life. You are now entering upon, as yet, an unknown Scene of Delight; Pleasures that know no Bounds; to which all your former may be consider'd as an Introduction. ----

View O, *Husband*, the Countenance and Behaviour





The Pleasures of Marriage. 41

haviour of your Spouse, and see with Joy all the Indications of approaching Labour : What *wry* and *four Faces she makes*, what *Groanings* and *Squallings* serenade your ravish'd Ears ! Well, who can help it ! if her Time's come, let us wish her a happy Minute. But sure she's mistaken, for a Fortnight since, she said she had two Months to go, perhaps the Cat has eat her Reckoning. Well, 'tis the first Time, poor young Creature, she'll know better with the next Child ; and as long as the Work of Generation goes forward, the Husband must of Necessity be highly delighted ----

Our Couple are hardly warm in their Bed, before Madam makes hideous Out-cries, and bitter Lamentations, for fear she should want necessary Assistants. 'Tis owing to you, says she, unkind as you are, that I parted with *Jenny* and *Dolly* the *Sempstresses* : How handy and useful would they have been about me in this my Extremity. Oh ! for Heaven's Sake, my Dear, says she, arise and call in some Help, or I shall be lost. Up starts our astonished Husband, deaf with her Cries, and with some of his Cloaths on, and the rest in his Hands, runs down some of the Stairs and tumbles down the rest, his Wife all the while roaring out, make haste, make haste, make haste ! O the Midwife, the Midwife in a Minute ! Our tender Husband, having sent up the Maid, flies like an Arrow out of a Bow, drown'd in Sweat, to the other End of the Town, the Dwelling of *Mother Midnight*. But who can describe the Anxiety and Perturbation of his Soul, as he ran along, lest any unhappy Accident should prevent her coming. One while he's in fear lest she should be sick ; then he's just distracted to think that possibly she may be call'd out to some other Woman, who also may live at a great Distance ; then she may be in the Country : Or, if none of these may be the Case, it may be

G

impossible

impossible for him to procure a Coach, and that will be as bad, because the Gentlewoman is unable to walk : And these gloomy and terrifying Apprehensions are greatly augmented, by the good Woman's declaring that she has set her Mind so much upon this *Midwife*, that if she is not to be had, she shall never be deliver'd. If another should come into the Room, immediately her Pains will go off, and who can answer for the Life of either the Infant or Mother ?

But, O indulgent Spouse, moderate these your frightful and terrifying Apprehensions, 'tis possible that they may be all groundless, and only the Effects of your great Care and Sympathy for your Spouse. Who can tell, but that this necessary old Lady may be at Home, and that you may conduct her safely and speedily to your expecting Wife ! What Joys will then take Place, when she is safely delivered of a fine jolly Boy, or a beautiful Daughter ? Then will there be an End, at least for the Present, to your rising three or four Times a Night, in the Midst of Winter ; nor will your Rest be any more disturbed with the lamentable, heart-piercing Groanings, and Grumblings of your big-belly'd Wife.

Think not much then of your present Trouble and Vexation. What tho' you are thus forced from your warm inviting Bed, and are obliged to traverse the Streets thro' Showers of heavy Rain, have you not this to comfort you, that 'tis a Work absolutely necessary to your future Honour and Happiness ? And is also the proper Time to exhibit to your Friends, Neighbours and Relations, the Sincerity of your Love, and the superlative Ardency of your Affection.

But tho' you have been so fortunate, as to meet with the *Midwife*, and have introduced her to your Spouse's unspeakable Satisfaction ; yet don't
vainly

The Pleasures of Marriage. 43

vainly imagine that your Business is over, and all your Fatigue at an End. Are you so stupid as to believe, that good *Mother Midnight* is capable of herself to manage all the Affairs relating to your *Wife* and *Child*? Haste away then with all Speed and Diligence, and collect together your *Sisters*, *Aunts* and *Cousins*, with others of your Spouse's most intimate Acquaintance; hurry them quickly away; they need not stay to dress, lest in the mean Time their Assistance should be wanted.

But be sure, that your Invitations are attended with all proper Order, Ceremony and Politeness; be very careful that each of those Ladies be invited in Order, according to Dignity, Age and Relation; because a Mistake herein may introduce Confusion, and cause much ill Blood amongst your Relations and Friends. ---- How lamentable will it be, if your Sister should refuse to come to the Christening, because your Brother's Wife was invited to the Labour before her? She'll make no Allowances for the Hurry and Confusion, which your Wife's Illness must necessarily occasion in your sympathising Breast; nor consider that the want of timely Help, and the terrible Symptoms of approaching Labour might induce you unthinkingly, to invite those first, that were first to be had.

'Tis true, these Disturbances, together with his Labour and Fatigue in running about backwards and forwards, may, at first View, seem to damp the good Man's Joy, and decrease his Felicity; yet let him consider, that by these he is only initiated into the instructive *School of Patience*; in which he will by Degrees receive such agreeable Lessons, as will in the End perfect him in the Exercise of that most valuable and useful Grace, Happy Tuition!

Well, the good, impatient, expecting *Daddy* is return'd, but to his inexpressible Affliction, the

44 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Gossips he has been harassing of himself to invite, are none of 'em come; for, notwithstanding the good Woman is suffering the most racking, excruciating Pain, and stands in great need of Help; yet they must spend the precious Moments in adorning themselves, as tho' they were going to a Wedding, fearing, tho' they are all Relations and Friends, the Observations and Remarks of each other.

Let us now compassionate a little the Distresses of our almost distracted Husband: See how he runs to and fro, as destitute of all Sense and Reflection, trampling his Hat under Feet, and tearing his inoffensive Locks from his frantick Head! Then he stands immoveable, and resembles rather a Statue, than an animated Being. Anon, he's seiz'd with such a violent Agitation in all his Limbs, that you would swear he was attack'd by a *Tertian* Ague. Then down he sits, and hearing two or three piercing Squalls, he falls into such an excessive Fit of crying and sobbing, as would even melt the most unrelenting Heart. ---- Then comes one of the Gossips to him, for some Things out of the Drawers; and tho' he has the Keys in his Hands, he starts up like one recover'd from a Trance, and runs with all the Eagerness of Desperation from Place to Place, to seek for 'em. Another good Woman follows, to hasten the former, which still heightens the poor Man's Flurry and Disorder. He examines his Pockets with one Hand, while he holds the Key he's looking for in the other; then putting the Key into his right Hand, he searches his Pockets for it with his Left: And thus he goes on backwards and forwards, 'till fortunately he at last drops the Key from his trembling Fingers upon the Floor, which puts an End to their Search, and restores him a little to his Senses.

Well,

The Pleasures of Marriage. 45

Well, the Drawers are examin'd, but, O shocking Disappointment ; many Things are yet wanting, and those that they find, are not in a proper Order for Use. The *Midwife* halloo's and bawls to such a Degree for the Things that she wants, that the Outcries of the labouring Woman are drown'd by her superior Noise.

Away runs fat *Marget* the Maid, puffing and blowing to their Neighbour Mrs. *Buy-all* ; in order to borrow some Necessaries for the Woman and Child ; what an unaccountable Dilemma, are the *Gossips* and our *Spouse* plung'd into afresh, by this unexpected Neglect ? Oh, that this was the End of his Sorrow !

Our venerable *Mother Midnight*, having examin'd the Premises with great Care and Circumspection, begins to discover by her Countenance, some Diffidence of Success ; which the sagacious Gossips discerning, they hover about her like a Swarm of Bees, begging and praying that if it is not her Work, she would be so merciful to the poor Gentlewoman as to declare it, to the End that they may send for superiour Assistance in Time. The prudent old Gentlewoman, thro' their Importunity, is obliged to confess, that great Difficulty attends the Case ; yet she is not without Hopes that in good Time, a happy End will be put to all their Fears, and the good Woman's Misery at once, but they must have Patience. ---- This suspicious Declaration sufficiently alarms the Apprehensions of the Gossips ; which are so evidently display'd by their melancholy gloomy Looks and doleful Accents, that the good Man is just at his Wit's End. Then one begins to pray for a happy Minute, another, that an Alteration in her Pains may soon happen, a third, that she may be strengthened and supported to go thro' it, for she, for her Part, can't see that her Labour is ever the forwarder,

46 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

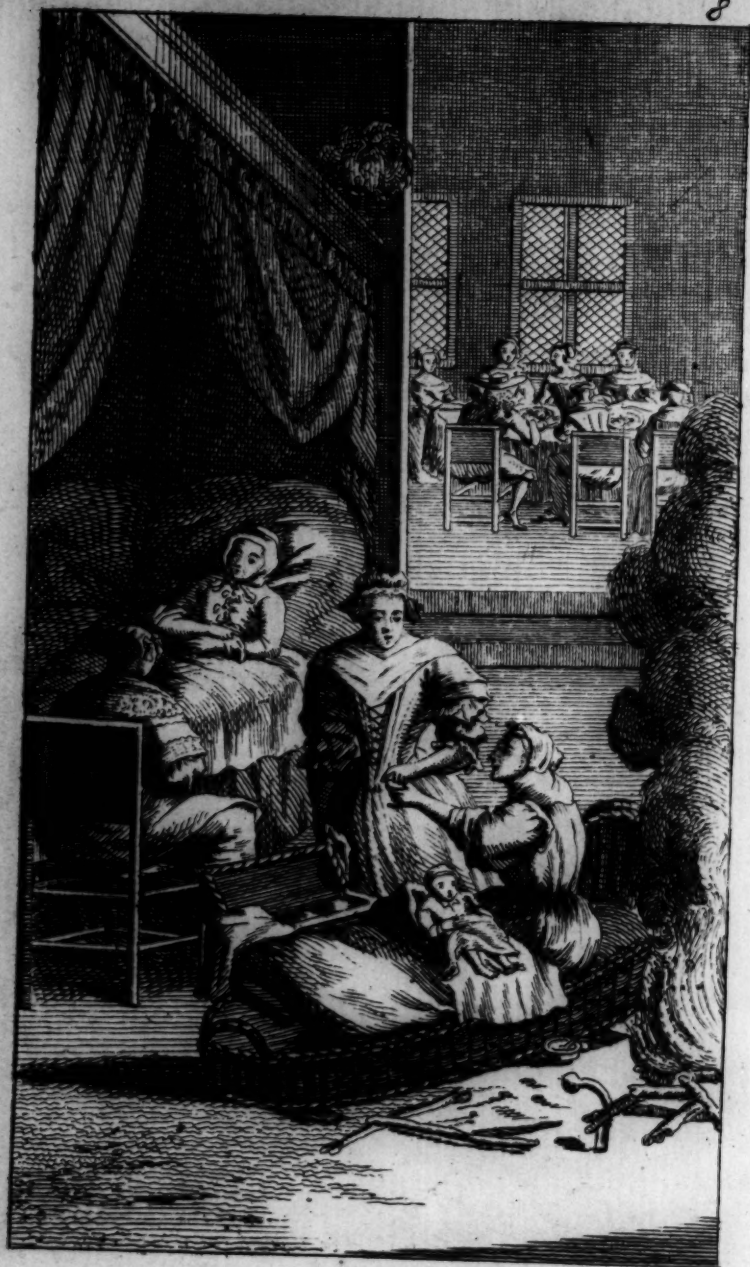
forwarder, notwithstanding all that she has taken by the Advice of the *Doctor* and *Apothecary* : Nay, she is certain, (for she has had several Children herself) that unless she has some very speedy Relief, both she and the tender Infant will be lost. Doleful Spectacle !

Oh, says the Maid *Peg*, if this is the Fruits of Matrimony, I'll live and die a Maid ! I'll never venture as long as I live : And tho' I believe that it must afford a vast Degree of Delight to be caress'd, and embrac'd in the Arms of a youthful vigorous Man that one loves ; yet delicious as it may be, it can never make amends for so much Anguish and Pain. Well, Heavens send it well over with my dear Mistress, sweet good-natur'd Creature as she is, but I am afraid she'll never go thro' it.

Well, it must be own'd that the *Husband*, and *Wife*, with the *Midwife*, *Nurse* and *Gossips*, have now sufficient Reasons to summon up all their Courage and Resolution to support and assist them ; forasmuch as all their *Cries* and *Tears*, their *Cinnamon* and *Plague-Water*, the Advice of *Doctor* and *Apothecary*, have all been made Use of to no Manner of Purpose ; so that unless some happy Alteration ensues, it will be very difficult to rank *this* among the *Delights* and *Pleasures of Matrimony*.

But pray, hark a little ! a few more such Pains as those, will diffuse Joy and Rapture thro' every Heart, and display them in every Face : That's well done again ! listen, what Bustle they make within ! There, now they are quiet again ! 'Tis certainly over. Well, have a little more Patience, and your longing Eyes shall be delighted with a *smiling Infant*, and your Ears shall be saluted and ravish'd with the long-expected Title of *Father*.







B O O K VIII.

The good Woman is delivered ; the Beauty of the Child ; the instructive, and delightful Tales of the Gossips ; and the extravagant Raptures of the Husband, &c.

Delightful Scene ! After all this Confusion, Distraction and Danger, the happy Minute is at last arriv'd ; the good Woman is safely deliver'd, and our indulgent, loving Husband, is not only thereby divested of his former Distractions and Terrors, but is advanced almost to the highest Pitch of *matrimonial Glory, Honour and Happiness* ! O, who can comprehend his Joy !

But, as human Felicity may receive some Addition, from the Applauses and Congratulations of others ; so our enraptur'd Husband, dispatches away *Peggy and Dolly*, to acquaint all his Friends and Relations ; not in the least doubting, but that they all will be as joyful and merry as himself.---Behold, what an Air of Mirth appears in his Face, while he repeats his Orders to those about him, that all Things may be in Readiness and Decorum, to entertain his expected Visitants ! and what Delight he seems to take, in the Readiness of *Mistress Do-all*, to furnish the *Midwife* with *Clouts* and other Appurtenances without Number ; while *Mistress Swift-hand*, and *Pry-well*, are turning every Thing *topsy-turvy*, under a Pretence of searching after some Things she wanted : Not in the least imagining that they are only indulging an
imper-

impertinent female Curiosity. --- And woe be to the Character of your Spouse, if these evil Ey'd Praters should discover the least Rent-hole or Blemish in either *Table-cloths*, *Napkins* or *Clouts*. How would their ill Nature, Malice and Envy triumph, at the pleasing Discovery ; one or other of 'em would be thrusting their Fingers thro' the Vacuity, and with spightful Smiles and Grins, take the first Opportunity to display these suppos'd Indications of your Wife's Negligence, to the Notice of their tattling Companions. This will afford a very copious Subject for gossiping Reflections both at Home and in the Neighbourhood ; and your *poor Wife*, after all the Pains and Trouble she has been at, will be reproach'd by those *Tale-bearing Hussies*, with the opprobrious Character of an ill Housewife ; tho' at the same Time, could you but be admitted into the fluttish Recesses of her envious Accusers, you would find their Linen in such a tatter'd Condition, that they would be exceeded by nothing, but the antient *Standards* and *Colours* in *Westminster* or *Guild-Hall*.

Well, notwithstanding all this peeping and prying into Holes and Corners ; the *young Bantling* is at last drest, and the delighted Husband call'd in to take his first View of it ; upon his entering the Chamber, good *Mother Midnight* presenting his Son and Heir to him, and obliging him to take him in his Arms, utters, with all the Gravity becoming the solemn Occasion, the following emphatical Expressions ; *Here Sir, there's your Child, and a thumping Boy he is ; I heartily wish you much Joy of him, and Heaven send he may make as good a Man as his Father.*

Ud'slife, what a tickling Pleasure is this ! what excessive Delight must the Father experience now ! And who can forbear Laughter, to see him stand
handling

handling his Darling, as a great overgrown *Monkey* does a *young Kit*'ing?

Our venerable old Midwife may now also in her Turn begin to rejoyce; for the Father's Heart is so over-flow'd with Rapture and Delight at the new Honour and Dignity, that he is happily arriv'd at, that she'll soon taste of his boundless Liberality; and this can be no Wonder, because every Child is a very great Addition to the Wealth of its Parents.

While these Things are transacting, the Cloth is laid, and the Table spread with all the Rarities and Delicacies of the Season; which give infinite Satisfaction to the good Women, whose Spirits, by this Time, are pretty well exhausted; tho' their Curiosity is herein also very much concern'd, for they long as much to know what is provided for their Entertainment, as they do to satisfy the Demands of their craving Appetites, ----

It would be the greatest Wonder in the World, if among such a Number of Women, there were not some to be found of a contentious dissatisfied Temper. Accordingly one finds fault with *this*, and another with *that*; *this* is not in Season, *that* has no Relish; with numberless other Mistakes, that either the *Caterer* or *Cook* has committed. The whole is concluded, with Madam *Cook-well*'s assuring the Gossips next to her, that if she had been consulted in buying and dressing the Victuals, the Entertainment should have been much more elegant and far less expensive; but, God help 'em, adds she, what can one expect from such young Folks? they'll know better next Time. If her Hearers don't seem to join with her in this Elogium upon her own wonderful Abilities, she assures 'em that she has the Honour to be consulted by several Ladies of the first Rank and nicest Taste, whenever they make any grand Entertainments, which they

would not do if their Judgment was equal to hers. ---

While these are engaged thus, some at the other End of the Table are prating forth the transcendent Virtues of *Oysters*, *Coxcombs*, *Lamb-stones*, *Sweet-breads*, and the like ; for they have experienced their Wonder-working Effects, by the repeated Embraces of their Husbands. You are certainly in the Right, says Madam *Luxury*, 'tis what I would recommend to the Use of every *married Couple*, who are desirous of tasting the highest Degree of Nuptial Pleasure. For my own Part, says she, I freely own, that the plumper I find my Partridge the fitter it is to Pott : This Kind of Discourse being so very entertaining, and continuing so long, the Lying-in-Woman is almost forgot, 'till thro' Weakness and want of Refreshment she swoons away ; and had she not been soon recovered, the Mirth of our gossiping Ladies would have been greatly obstructed.

Happy for the good Man, if he has any Knowledge in the Affairs of the Kitchen ; for the Discourse runs so high that Way, that if he has not, he must either be silent, or betray his Ignorance. But he is soon relieved from this tiresome Dilemma ; for, the *Woman in the Straw* ; the *shaking of the Sheets*, and other erecting Subjects, in which he can bear his Part, begin now to engage the Tongues and Attention all around the Table.

Well, let 'em go on, while *Fat Jenny* runs to and again to fetch the Nurse, who has not as yet, made her Appearance. With the utmost Difficulty, she finds out the Place of her Abode ; and there she hears that she is nursing a Gentlewoman, at the other End of the Town : What can she do ? the Nurse must be had : A Curse light on my Mistress, says she, as she runs melting in her Grease, for being out in her Reckoning, which has given me all

The Pleasures of Marriage. 51

this Labour and Trouble. Well, she finds her out; but fresh Difficulties attend her Embassy: The Gentlewoman will not part with her, insisting upon it, that Possession gives the best Title. *Jenny* cries and roars, and swears she'll not go without her. Thus they *pro* and *con*, 'till *Sleep-little* the Nurse begins to imagine herself to be a Person of great Importance in her Business, and that certainly, since Nurses are so plenty, it must be owing to her superior Skill, that they are each of 'em so unwilling to resign their Pretensions.

A few Days make a Discovery of our Nurse's Experience and Understanding; for, lamentable Case, our dear Infant has got the *Thrush* in its Mouth; and can by no Means be brought to take the Breast. The poor Woman is in such Agonies with the Confinement of her Milk, that she's just distracted; and is terribly affrighted lest a Tumour, or something worse should be the Consequence. And what adds to the Affliction, the Nurse's Stomach is too delicate to suffer her to draw 'em.

Now, Oh tender Husband, is the Time for you to go to an experienced Apothecary, and lay before him your beloved's Grievances, to the End that he may bring with him Remedies against the Choring of the Milk, and to heal the dreadful Clefts in her tender Nipples, till such Time as the Child is able to take to the Breast.

Certain it is, that the present Situation of your Spouse, her Complaints excepted, is Matter of great Joy; for now, she may be maintained at much less Expence, than when she was longing for all that she could either think on, or see; the utmost Extent of her Desires, being circumscrib'd within the narrow Compass of a little *Panada*, *Caudle*, *Stew'd-Prunes*, *new laid Eggs*, or the like. ----

If the *Nostrums* of Mr. *Glister-pipe* the Apothecary,

52 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

cary, should unhappily be ineffectual, as is often the Case, you will nevertheless, have no Reason to mitigate your Mirth; for the News of your Wife's Illness being rumour'd abroad, you will be soon attended by a *Posse* of grave, elderly, female Physicians, deeply experienced in all the various Disorders to which Lying-in-women and Infants are subject.

There's the venerable Wife of Doctor *Needham*, how gravely she applies the Spectacles to her Nose, that she may with the greater Certainty discern the poor Infant's Disorder: She is certain that a Glyster will make a perfect Cure. And as to your Wife's Breasts, she'll send home for an Ointment, that at once using will put the Milk into such a Motion, as will not only take away the Pain, but infallibly prevent it from forming the least Tumour whatsoever.

Mrs. *Rattle-pate*, tho' she will not presume to depreciate the Efficacy of Mother *Needham's* Preparations, yet she is sure nothing can exceed the Virtues of a *Sandwich-Carrot*. Take a *Carrot*, says she, and after having scraped it hollow with the Point of a Pen-knife, apply a Piece over each *Nipple*: This will attract all the ill Humours from the Breast, without the least Sense of Pain or Fear of Danger. And tho' Madam, says she, this may appear, at first View, to be a very insignificant Medicine, yet if one Christian may believe another, I have found the Advantage by it in six Lying-in, when all other Applications have fail'd.

For my Part, says Mrs. *Tattle*, I believe what you have advis'd to be an excellent Remedy; but as Madam's Nipples are exceeding sore and tender, I would first of all advise her to bathe them well with some *Aqua Vitæ*, and after that to wash 'em with some of the best *Rose-water*; there's nothing like it. I have had 13 Children, *live-born and christen'd*,

christen'd, and have always been subject to sore Nipples, but nothing that I could think of ever gave me so much Ease. Pray, Madam, therefore don't omit it.

Up starts Mrs. *Flippant*, declaring that she has often made use of the *Carrot*, according to her Neighbour's Directions, nor did she ever omit *Aqua Vitæ* and *Rose-water*, but never in her Life found the least Benefit. Nay, she has tried a thousand other different Things recommended by one and another, besides having the Advice of the *Apothecary*, and all to no Purpose; still she was in Misery, till at last she was cur'd by only once using *Salvator Winter's Ointment*.

Mrs. *Pry-in-all* begins to relate the wonderful Effects of Oil of *Myrrhe*, and of the famous Plasters prepared by the noted *Gentlewoman* in the *Minories*, above all other Applications.

After which, the sage Matron Mrs. *Positive* acquaints the Company, that she is possess'd of a Recipe worth its Weight in Gold; that she had it from one of the ablest Man-midwives in *London*; and that out of an hundred Women who have made use of it, by her Recommendation, not one of them miss'd of a Cure. For which Reason she has not only carefully consulted the Works of Dr. *Culpeper*, Dr. *Bates*, *Quincy* and others, who all speak greatly in its Praise, but also that Posterity may reap the Advantage, she has committed the same to writing. With that she pulls out a little Book, and after having carefully fixed her *Barnacles*, she reads thus: *Take Lapis Calaminaris prepar'd, what Quantity you please, make it into the Form of an Ointment with as much May Butter as will suffice: With this anoint your Breasts all over four or five Times a Day; this will not only prevent the Milk from curdling, but will also effectually cure and harden your Nipples. And if the Child should suck it in with the Milk, so much the better, for*
by

54 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

by that Means it will be cur'd of the Thrush.

Will any Body dispute, but that our Husband must be wonderfully delighted and edify'd to hear, how liberally the good Women communicate their Knowledge and Experience, for the Advantage of his Spouse and her tender Infant !

But will not his Pleasure be vastly encreased, when he is so happy as to be intirely freed from the Company of these chattering *Magpies* ; who notwithstanding all their friendly Pretensions, have nothing so much in View, as the indulging their voracious Appetites at the good Man's Expence : Certainly this must be esteem'd as one of the greatest of Nuptial Delights.

These Remedies may be all very excellent, says the *Grandmother*, but 'tis impossible for my Daughter to use 'em, for *lack-a-day* ! the poor Girl is so weak, and her Stomach so much disorder'd, that the very Sight of an *Ointment*, let alone the Smell, would cause her to faint away. Nor will she be ever able to suckle the Child ; for the Moment it is put to the Breast, she is in such intolerable Pain, that she's just ready to run distracted. What can we do ? To hire a wet Nurse is very chargeable ; and God help 'em, they have had Charge enough already : Besides, who knows what Distempers the poor Infant may contract by sucking a strange Woman. Nor will I ever consent to its being nurs'd abroad ; for that oftentimes destroys all natural Affection between the Mother and Child ; and not only that, how often do we see Children either half starved, or else poisoned with Nastiness, while others are eaten up with the Rickets, and so are helpless and deformed all their Lives. No, no, in God's Name let us keep it at home, and endeavour to bring it up by Hand ; for bad nursing at Home, is better than good nursing abroad.

The frugal Contrivances of this sagacious old Lady, unfortunately prove all abortive ; for the Child,

Child, notwithstanding all the Care and tending imaginable, grows so very froward and peevish, that the whole Family is distracted, and confus'd ; and Mrs. *Sleep-little* the Nurse, is so harrafs'd and fatigu'd with it, that she gives it, as her Opinion, and who can dispute it, that the Child pines for the Breast ; and that they must very soon, either procure it a Breast, or a Coffin.

This the poor tenderhearted Mother can by no means agree to : Her Love to her Child is so predominant, that she will suckle it herself, let her go through ever so much. Well, the Child is brought, and she makes several Attempts to accomplish her laudable Intentions, but all in vain ; for the Pain is so vehement, that it almost deprives her of her Senses. A *Wet-Nurse* must now be had with all Expedition, lest the poor Infant should expire ; all Hands are immediately employ'd in this Service. And after much Trouble and Difficulty, our diligent *Grandmother* succeeds : She has happily been recommended to a mighty housewifey, sober, modest young Woman, with a curious Breast of Milk as blue as a Razor ; and as her Husband is just gone a Voyage to the *East-Indies*, so there is no fear of her Milk being spoil'd. Well, this fortunate Event, creates extraordinary Joy in the Breasts of both *Father* and *Mother* : Now are their Hearts at Rest, after all their Anxiety and Solitude ; for the *Wet-Nurse* is prodigious fond of the *Child*, and it begins to crow and thrive amain : Nor is the *Dry-Nurse* less careful of the *Mother* ; so that every Thing begins now to have a very promising Appearance. Make much of yourself, therefore, Oh happy Mother ; for now is your Time : The tormenting Pains of suckling are at an End ; nor will your needful Rest be any more disturbed, with the Cries and Lamentations of your pining Infant : Consult therefore your Ease ; indulge your Appetite, and cheer

56 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

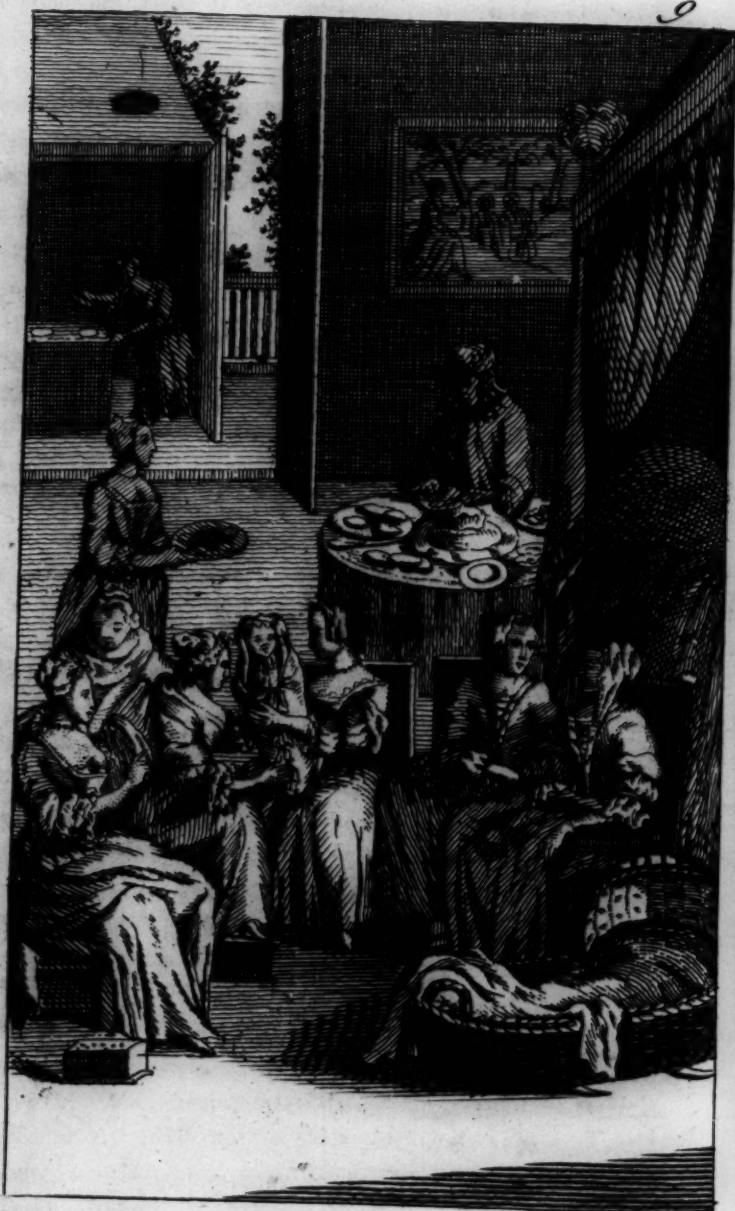
cheer up your Spirits with reviving Cordials, or generous Wine. Now must you bid adieu, the ninth Day being over, to lifeless insipid *Panada*, *Gruel*, &c. and enter upon a more strengthening and nourishing Diet; such as roasted *Chickens*, *young Pigeons*, *Wild-Fowl*, *Turkey*, *Lambstones*, *Fish*, and various other Dishes, that your Appetite, assisted by your fruitful Invention, will easily suggest. But be sure, that altho' your Strength and Vigour may return, you don't discover it too soon; on the contrary be continually expatiating, in your Spouse's Presence, of your great Weakness and want of Appetite; this will excite in him the highest Degree of Pity and Compassion, and will prompt him to continue to you the Enjoyment of those Delicacies 'till you yourself are satiated with the Repetition of 'em.

Well, now *O new Father*, come to an ingenuous Confession; are there any Pleasures equal to those you enjoy? You are now not only so happy, as to be admitted to eat and drink with your Spouse at her Bed-side; but are also unspeakably delighted to perceive, by her chearful Behaviour, that in a very short Time, you will be again admitted to embrace and caress her as usual.

This is the delightful *Month*, that creates in the Mind of every married *Woman* such pleasing Ideas and Reflections, nor ought it ever to be eras'd from the Memory of every *loving* and *indulgent Husband*; for as by the Vigilance and Care of the *Nurse*, the *Lying-in-Woman* is not only recover'd from all the consequential Weaknesses of Labour, but is also invigorated by proper Diet, and of Course becomes extreamly desirous of her Husband's Conversation; so he also, by a Participation of the same, is better qualify'd to give her all imaginable Pleasure and Delight.

Well, what an Advantage it has been to our
Husband,





Husband, that he met with a Nurse so well qualified; and what a Joy it is, that her Labour and Attendance have been follow'd with such wonderful Success: The very Ideas of her Pain and Travail, are quite forgot; and instead of a wan, ghastly Countenance, she now begins again to appear with all the sprightly, inviting Charms of Vigour, Youth, and Beauty: And as Preludes to approaching Joys, she is now ever and anon throwing the Pillow at her Spouse; patting his Cheek, and squeezing his Hand,



B O O K IX.

The Child is christen'd; the Feast provided for the Gossips, the true Stories they relate, very delightful to read, and instructive to remember.

NOW, O happy Father, you have had the Possession of eight capital Pleasures, together with an infinite Number of concomitant Delights; which have, no doubt on't, excited the Envy of less happy Mortals: But your Felicity knows no Bounds; for, there is just now opening to your ravished Senses, a Scene to which you have hitherto been an utter Stranger.

The good Woman, tir'd with her Confinement, begins to express a strong Inclination to be Abroad, that she may shew to all around her, the beautiful Produce of their mutual Embraces. But before this can be effected, had not we better have the Child christen'd? without doubt; nothing can be
I objected

58 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

objected to a Thing so necessary, but then, it is of no small Moment to agree on its Name; various are the Desires and Opinions of the contending Parties, the Father's principal Kindred are call'd *John's* and *William*, the Mother's *Thomas* and *Robert*; but these Names will by no Means do! but wherefore I pray! Why truly, says Madam, my Child shall not go by the nick Names of *Bob*, *Tom*, *Bill* or *Jack*! no, indeed, my dear Boy is as pretty as any, and shall have an agreeable Name; what a Duce do you tell me of your Kindred, will they be weak enough to take Exceptions at my Child's Name; you see its Godfathers have referr'd that Matter to me, and I will have his Name *Valentine*; for 'tis from that very Day I date his Being, and what can sound more delightful than *Vall*.

O dear Madam, interrupts Mrs. Nurse, what a charming Name you have pitch'd upon, *Valentine* was always my Favourite, but I am in terrible Pain for him, whilst he is descending the Tree to encounter his savage Brother *Orson*; but then again, how my Heart leaps when he leads him conquer'd in a String like a muzzled Bear; and shall my dear Babe be a Knight Errant, and overthrow Giants, Knights, and Monsters? *Valle*, my sweet little *Valle*, Pappa must buy it a keen Sword, and Armour as bright as Silver and harder than Flint, and in a little Time, it shall be knighted, and go and cut down that Monster the Giant of *Prussia*, and rescue the poor distressed Lady of *Hungary*. O the happy Event! methinks I see my little Hero return in Triumph, and all the World ecchoing his Fame; no more to be said, call him but *Valentine*, and let him alone for the rest. ---- Well, what can our good Man say to this? shall he tell the Nurse, his Spouse and she speak of different Persons? what will that avail, will not Madam persist, and can he do better than submit?

submit? What can be a greater Pleasure than to come into the Sentiments of the Mistress of his Heart; besides, they are in a Manner unanimous of the Lady's Opinion, he must be cast in the End; yield therefore with Generosity, and receive the Thanks of the good Women. ---- Very well, you have certainly taken the wisest Course; nothing remains now, but to proceed to the Ceremony, the Parson attends in the next Room, and is in haste to go to a young Couple that wait for a Specimen of his Office. Well, this Affair being happily over, the good Woman gives to Nurse a Catalogue of those that she intends to invite. What a List is here! Zounds! why the poor Woman will be a Week upon her Journey. However, you need not be in Pain, lest she should omit any; for 'tis from the Multitude of Gossips, that arises her own private Advantage. Well, the Pleasure that flows from the Company of such a numerous Collection of merry agreeable Ladies, must be ravishing.

Now has poor *Sleep-little* the Nurse, an Opportunity of discovering another Branch of her Skill and Diligence: She is no sooner return'd from inviting the Guests, but she begins to bustle from Place to Place, and from one Thing to another, to the End that all her Affairs may be extreamly neat, and in Order; for she is not a Stranger to the impertinent Curiosity of the *Gossips*: She dreads therefore the least Omission of her Duty, knowing that her Reputation as a Nurse, will thereby be very much affected ---- Poor Woman, how rightly she conjectured; for there's Mistress *Order-all* and others, under a Pretence of visiting the *Necessary-House* and other Places of Retirement, only withdraw themselves, to inspect into every Hole and Corner, in order to furnish themselves with Matter of Reflection and Scandal among the Neighbours.

But let us turn our Eyes to a more pleasing Prospect: There's both the *Wet* and *Dry-Nurse*, fully employ'd in decking forth the *Bantling* to the best Advantage; and herein may be discover'd, not only the delicate Taste of your Wife in her Choice of the most fashionable, and costly Ornaments, but also the Dexterity of the Nurses, by whose Management, the natural Beauty of the Infant is set off to the greatest Advantage. There, *Father*, says the fond *Mother*, see how like a *little Angel* he looks! Lord! What a beautiful Creature it is. There *take him*, and *kiss him*: *Dear Madam*, says Nurse, what a vast Resemblance there is between my *Master* and the *Child*, he looks as if he was spit out of his Mouth. What would not one go thro', to be the Mother of such a delightful *Infant*? Well my *Dear*, says Madam, I vow Nurse is a very good Judge; for every Soul that has seen your Boy, says, that he is the very *Model* of you; and that he is as like you, as one *Drop of Water* is like another. Is'n't he, pray Madam, says she to an old Gentlewoman that sat next to her? Why, really Madam, replies the Lady, I think some of his Features are not unlike yours; but he is vastly like your Spouse, from the Waiste downwards: Well faith, says another, he's a fine jolly Child, his Father spar'd neither Stuff nor Labour I'll warrant him.

As the Delights of Conversation very much depend upon Variety, so now they make a Transition from the Child to themselves.

Our new Mother opens the Way, with giving a very particular and pathetick Relation of all that besel her during her Pregnancy and in her Labour, and observes what a vast Difference there is between one Woman and another, spinning her Discourse out, thro' a great Variety of entertaining Particulars; concluding the whole (for she would not but they

they should know it for the World) with relating to them the Stratagem that her Husband made use of to come to Bed to her. Truly, says Madam *Lack-it*, if as you say, that there's a great deal of Difference in Women, I am sure there's as much in Men; for tho' I am as likely as another, and, perhaps, as willing, I am not ashamed to speak it, I never found my Husband so ready to fire his Chace Gun.

Well, says another, I don't know how it may be with others; but my Husband I remember was once only a Fortnight from Home; and the Night he return'd I really thought he was mad. I am sure I did not lay my Eyes together till three in the Morning: And that very Time Nine Months I was brought to Bed of two as fine Boys, as ever the Sun shone on.

Have a little Patience till the *Bowl* has gone about a little, it will certainly be well worth your while.

In the mean Time observe how delighted poor *Nicholas* is, at the Health and Vivacity of his Spouse; at the Grandeur of her Dress, and Magnificence of her Chamber. Poor Creature, he is so full, that he can't tell how to give Vent to his Joys, unless by a Profusion of Wine, Sack, Punch, and other exhilarating Liquors.

See again how diligent he is in helping his voracious Guests to *Roast-Beef*, *Capons* and *Ham*, *Turkey*, *Neat's Tongue*, or other relishing Morfels, that his Liquor may be exhausted the sooner. Well stand fast *Bowls* and *Glasses*, for you have a terrible Exercise to go thro', between this and Morning.

What a vast Addition would be made to our Father's Happiness, if he could but attend to every instructive Discourse, that is deliver'd by these nimble *Tongued* Visitants round the Table, now they begin to be warm. Mrs.

62 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Mrs. *Sharpset* begins with lamenting that Nights should be set apart so universally for Nuptial Embraces. But for her Part, her Husband and she has so frequently broke thro' that Custom, that latterly she has always expected it about an Hour after Dinner.

Mrs. *Touch and take* is much of her Neighbour's Opinion, for being once at a Gossiping with her Spouse, where they were elegantly entertain'd, they no sooner got Home, but they both of 'em were seized with such an amorous Fit, that they could not stay to undress, but went at it with all the Spirit and Eagerness of their first Embrace. I can't say, adds she, that I was ever so delighted in my Life; and altho' I was then not very young, nor had been with Child for six Years past, yet that Day nine Months I was deliver'd of my Son *Bob*; and a beautiful Child he is, tho' I say it.

I do assure you, Ladies, says Mrs. *Courant*, that what I am going to relate, is as true as we all sit here. A certain Maid that sold Glasses about our Town, had toy'd so long with a young lusty Fellow, so that in nine Months Time her Phial was ready to burst. Her Pains coming on pretty fast, away she runs to the Town-Midwife, where she was safely delivered. About an Hour after she took home the Child, washed her Cloaths, and the Day following cried her Glasses about as usual. This surprizes the whole Company prodigiously, there's a vast Difference in Labours indeed, says another. There was a married Woman, a Neighbour of mine, who was so unmercifully us'd by an old fumble-fisted Midwife, that it would make your Hair stand an End. However, at last they sent away for Mr. *Peepin*, a noted *Man-Midwife*, and with much Difficulty he saved the poor Woman's Life, but the poor Infant was lost. Well

I really

The Pleasures of Marriage. 63

I really think, adds she, that Whores have the best Luck.

Up starts another, declaring that it is a great Hardship that Women can't indulge themselves in lawful innocent Pleasures, without bringing upon them such a Variety of Torments and Illconveniency. However, says she, I never hear a Man-Midwife mention'd, but it brings to my Mind a very merry Affair that happen'd to one of my Husband's Relations. The Woman, you must know, at the End of her Reckoning fell into strong Labour, which continued with great Violence three Days and three Nights. The Midwife and all the Women were very much alarm'd. At last the Woman cries out aloud, *Oh I never shall be deliver'd, I can't be deliver'd, I shall die, I shall die, unless my Husband's Instrument which has caused me all this Pain, be cut off before my Eyes!* Pray Madam, says the Midwife, what a horrible Request is this? You are certainly beside yourself. Would you destroy that, and endanger your Husband's Life too, which was ordained for your Use and Pleasure! No, no, it can't be permitted; he has done no more than his Duty, and what you have often long'd for and expected. A Pain coming on at that Instant, she bawl'd out: *O, don't talk to me of Use and Pleasure; I tell you I shall never be deliver'd till I see the nasty Thing cut off before my Face.* In short, Perswasions were thrown away upon her, for she did nothing but repeat the same Request for an Hour together. In the mean Time her Pains going off, the Women began to be in Fear both for her and the Child. In short, they acquainted her Husband with it, who seem'd to be very much concern'd; but as he thought she would soon change her Mind, he said with a Smile; no, no, I may get another Wife, but if I once lose my *Man Thomas*, I am sure

64 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

sure I shall never have another. Finding her thus inflexible, they laid their Heads together how they might deceive her. In Order to which the Husband went to her, and with all the counterfeit Symptoms of Grief, he assur'd her, that rather than hazard her precious Life, he was willing to comply with all she desir'd; with which she seem'd very well satisfied. Soon after three or four Surgeons came in to perform the Operation, and in her Sight, lay'd him extended upon a Table, and bound him fast thereto with Cords. After which they took out their Instruments, and laid them one by one in Order; her Husband all the Time expressing the utmost Dread of the approaching Operation. Now Madam, says one of the Surgeons, I'll soon present you with the Cause of all your Sorrow. Nay Sir, says she, I don't want it; let me but see it fairly off, 'tis all I desire. With that he took his Knife in one Hand, and concealing a Cow's Teat in the other, he feigned to make a Cut, one of his Companions at the same Time squeezing some Blood out of a Sponge; this was follow'd by a most terrible Squall from the Husband. There it is, Madam, says he, holding up the Teat: You'll be easy now certainly. The Man was immediately order'd to Bed, and the Woman was deliver'd before the Surgeons left the Room. She had not been long got to Bed, before she began to enquire after her Husband's Welfare. Oh, he's very ill indeed, reply'd the Midwife. Do those Things ever grow again, says she to one of the Surgeons. Grow again, Madam, says he; will a Man's Leg grow again after it's off? No to be sure, says she. Neither then will your Husband's Instrument. Lord! says she, surely I was bewitch'd. But, pray, Sir, can't you set it on again, for methinks I would have him to be like other Men? No, no, says the Surgeon,

The Pleasures of Marriage. 65

Surgeon; If I can save his Life, it will be well; but truly I very much doubt it. In three or four Days the good Man begins to walk about the House, but pretends that he is very weak and faint. At last, however, his Strength returns, and he don't appear to be much the worse for his Loss. The Woman's Month being expir'd, her Husband went to Bed to her, as usual, but lay very quiet. But she, wanting to be doing, puts her Hand towards her Husband's Belly, as you know we married Women love to do; but the good Man desir'd, that as she had deprived him of the Testimonials of his Manhood, that she would not put Desires into his Mind that he was not able to accomplish. The next Night, Madam was at the same Sport again, but meeting with the same Return, she said to him; why my dear, has the barbarous Man cut it quite close; has not he left a Stump behind? To be short, the good Man having fasted above a Month, could carry on the Jest no longer, but throwing himself into her Arms, he convinced her that he was still able to raise in her, the Pleasures she had often before experienc'd. The good Woman in the midst of her Raptures, says to him, Oh! my dear, I really think that the Stump is as good as the whole.

Mrs. *Lispswell* then relates a Story of a Servant-Maid that she kept some Time ago. This Baggage, says she, you must know, was always neglecting her Business upon one frivolous Pretence or another, to be gossiping her Time away at a *Stay-maker's* in the Neighbourhood. Now she must go to bespeak a new Pair; anon she must go to have them try'd on; then her old ones must be taken in; by and by she's grown fat, and they must be let out; then they hurt her under the Arms. Lord help me, I had no Mistrust of her all this while. But as true as we are alive, in a

66 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

few Months, Madam could wear no Stays at all, for her Belly was up to her Chin. After much ado, she at last confess'd that she only went there to be bon'd.

I never, says another, was so deceived in my Life as I was in *Patty Pale-face*; I really took her to be the most modest Creature in the World! 'Twas a great Grief to her Parents. I have frequently observ'd her in the Fruiterer's Shop at the Corner yonder, but I thought as she seem'd to have the Green-sickness, that she went there to indulge her Appetite in Fruit, unknown to her Mother. However, the Fruiterer had been in the Saddle, for she began to be very Big, and said it was by eating of Oranges and Lemons: Doctor *Stultus* said it was the Dropsy. But her Mother, soon after, apprehending her Disorder, committed her to the Care of a good Woman at *Hackney*, who in a little Time tap'd her of a very fine Girl; which was put out to nurse, and Madam at the Month's End return'd perfectly cur'd.

Mrs. *Loud-enough* was just about beginning, when they heard a violent Knocking at the Door. Which being open'd, our Gossips Husbands were introduced, to the great Joy of Nurse, who imagined that now her Presents would be doubled: But one of the Ladies, not so well pleas'd with her Husband's Appearance, cries, what a Plague do they do here! now our Conversation will be interrupted with their Nonsense. Nurse, however, still about, your Master must pay for the Wine, for three or four Glasses wonderfully promotes Freedom. And I think Nurse, that it is very requisite, that you yourself should now take your Portion of it; for you seem to be very much fatigued and low-spirited with waiting and attending; but have a Care, for it has oftentimes very odd Effects. I remember, my Sister's Nurse was mightily

mightily addicted to drink her Master's and Mistress's Health, till at last, when she went to feed the Child, she ran the Spoon under its Chin, then into its Eye, afterwards against its Breast. And such was its wonderful Effects, that she could not distinguish a *Cap* from a *Clout*, nor a *Biggen* from a *Forehead-Cloth*.

Thrice happy Father ! thou hast not only delighted thyself with entertaining the good Women with all imaginable Delicacies and Varieties, both for Eating and Drinking, for which they have return'd thee a curious Collection of instructive Relations ; but you have now also the Happiness of repeating the same to their Husbands, who will not be backward in doing Honour to your unbounded Generosity, while their Corporations will contain the Contents of the often replenished Bowl. Upon my Life, says Mrs. *Laughwell*, you have a fine Child here ; I think I never beheld its Fellow. Egad, says her Husband, if we, my dear, were just now alone together, I'd be hang'd if I did not get you with Child of such another. You are very merry, Child, replies the Wife, but sure you are not so sharp set, but you may easily stay still we are at Home.

Two Soldiers, says Mr. *Fill-up*, were drinking together, and talking of the Pleasures of a Female Bedfellow ; one of 'em finding that the Discourse had operated below, says to his Comrade ; if I had a Wife this Instant, I'd suffer my *Boltspit* to be cut off, if I did not get her with Child. Why *Jack*, says the other, you need not be long without a Wife, if I was as strong in Hand as you, I would be hang'd, if I did not get a Girl's Consent to have me in two Hours. The other doubting the Premises ; a Wager was immediately laid. Away he goes, and in a few Minutes, met with a bouncing country Lass, with a *Cream Pot* in her Hand : He directly makes an Attack ; the Girl

68 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

resists stoutly, and resenting horribly her being stop'd in the Street by a Foot-Soldier. Child, says he, don't be offended ; my utter Aversion to lewd Women, induces me to seek the Acquaintance of a virtuous honest Girl ; and that you are such, your Looks and Behaviour sufficiently prove. Pray, Sir, says the Girl, give yourself no farther Trouble ; I am in no great haste for a Husband, especially for one of your Cloth. I own, says he, my being a Soldier is no very great Recommendation ; but that's owing to false Notions of us. Our Wives are the happiest of Women. And tho' our Pay is not large, yet whatever the Country produces is ours, and as often as we want, we make Use of it, without the Trouble of asking Questions. Thus Sorrow is a Stranger to our Hearts, and all the frightful Apprehensions of Poverty are banished. But as to my self, says he, my Merit and Valour have rais'd me Friends, and they are endeavouring my Promotion ; so that with me, in a little Time, you'll enjoy all that your Heart can desire. In short, Madam capitulates ; but desires Time to consider of it. Consideration, says he, is the Ruin of every Thing ; for which Reason a Soldier abhors it. Now Child is your Time. Speak before that Cloud has pass'd the Face of the Moon, or else for ever after hold your Tongue. In short, before the Moon was clear the Girl surrenders. He gives her his Tobacco-Box for a Pledge, and she, in Return, presents him with one of her Garters, and tells him the Place of her Abode. They parted, she for her Cream, and he to his Comrade ; to whom he relates his Success ; with very great Encomiums upon the Beauty and Modesty of his Mistress, and finally produces the Garter. The Soldier being astonished at what he heard, told his Companion that he should be infinitely obliged to him, if he would help

The Pleasures of Marriage. 69

help him to juſt ſuch another. In troth, replies he, give me but one Week's Pay, and you ſhall have *her*; for as our Contract was made in the Dark, ſhe'll hardly be able to diſtinguiſh us aſunder. They ſtruck up a Bargain directly. Next Morning the enamour'd Soldier, taking the Garter with him, went to his Lady; and after having repeated to her what paſſed over Night, ſhe immediately leaves her Service and marries him. And he prov'd as good as he promis'd; for nine Months after ſhe was brought to Bed of a fine jolly Boy.

Well, ſays Maſter *Croſs-grain*, this is a moſt diverting Story indeed: It pleaſes me, becauſe it has ſuch a happy Concluſion. I wiſh what I am about to relate had been ſo ſucceſſful. *Will Crotchet* and *Molly Mockit* got intimately acquainted, no-body knew how, and were both of them extremely deſirous of taſting the Joys of Wedlock. Their Friends on both Sides being conſulted, were very well pleas'd with the Match; and accordingly Articles were drawn up, with a Penalty annexed to the Breach of 'em. Things being thus ſettled, they were next aſk'd in the Church, and the Marriage-Day was fix'd upon, all Parties ſeeming to expreſs the higheſt Satisfaction and Content. But all on a ſudden, the young Couple fell out to that Degree, that they loaded one another with the moſt opprobrious Language imaginable, and diſſolved themſelves from all Manner of Obligations whatever. The old Folks being acquainted with the ſudden Alteration, called our young Couple before 'em, in order to enquire into the Cauſe of it. *Crotchet* being examined, declared, he foreſaw that the Match would be unhappy; for notwithstanding her Diſguiſes, he had found her out to be a lazy, idle, naſty Slut; that ſhe was noted for the greateſt Brawler in the Pariſh; and that he had ſeen her more than once intoxicated with
Liquor,

70 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Liquor, among a parcel of Chair-women and Washer-women: And therefore he desir'd, that unless they had a Mind to be his Ruin, they would not insist upon his having her.

The young Woman, on her Part declar'd, that he was a Drunkard, a Spendthrift and Gamester, and that he was intimately acquainted with all the nasty Whores in the Parish, and that rather than be ty'd to such a Beast of a Man, she'd be hang'd out of the Way. The good Folks were, you may be sure, very much shock'd at what they heard. However they desir'd them to be easy, telling them that they might be both of them mistaken; and that as it was possible, some envious People had rais'd these Reports to obstruct their Happiness; and that if they were true, yet as Matrimony was generally a Cure for such youthful Frolicks, they desired them to fulfil their Promises. But all that they could do ~~availing~~ nothing, and therefore by joint Consent they committed the Writings to the Flames. In a very short Time after, *Crotch* married his Neighbour *Peg*, who was six Months gone with Child by a Foot-Soldier. And *Molly* ty'd herself up to a Waterman, who after he had got her Belly up, enter'd himself on Board of a Man of War.

Mr. *Lack-wit*, beginning to speak, was prevented by the Opening of Mrs. *Sweet-lips*, who began thus: There was a Gentlewoman in our Neighbourhood, very remarkable for bringing forth Twins; her Husband was a mere Dwarf; little Birds you know, Ladies, have often very long Tails. I had the Happiness to be sent for to her Labour. In a very little Time after I had been in the Room, she was delivered of two of the finest Babies that ever my Eyes beheld. The Midwife, being willing to leave every thing safe, was busying herself about the Woman, when all

of

The Pleasures of Marriage. 71

of a sudden she cries out, here! here! what are you all about, why don't you attend? Here's another Child for you: And so there was indeed a lovely Girl, with a Cawl over its pretty Face; it came crying into the World, with as much Strength, as a Child of a Year old. The good Woman begg'd and pray'd to leave none behind, for she thought she felt another stir: What now do you think of such a Husband as this? Well, a little Man for me; they have always a Blessing sent 'em.

What a valuable Present would it be to Posterity, could a Collection be made of all the Stories that were related: But that is impossible, where there are such a Mixture and Confusion of Tongues, both of Men and Women. The different Languages at *Babel* were almost as intelligible; here's one extending her Throat in a Horse-language, by Way of Applause to her Neighbours; smutty Songs another is bellowing in praise of the Punch, where his next Neighbour, having got his Load, is snoring in Concord, like the grunting of a Hog.

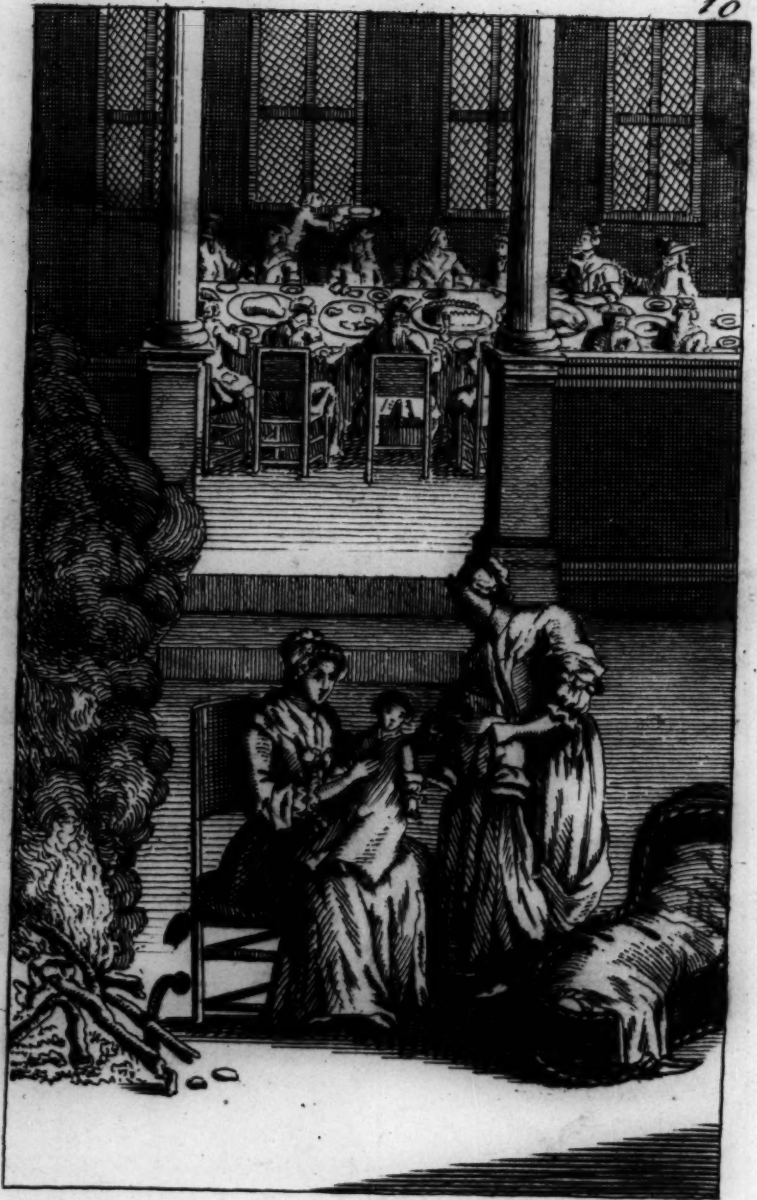
Let the Batchelor no more glory in his whimsical Notions of Happiness; and let the whole Race of Fumblers, look on, envy and despair. Now, what Pleasures are hastening! The People are up, and just ready to take their Leave; delightful Moment! what Raptures must the good Man be in, while he is receiving the Compliments and Acknowledgments of his grateful Guests! Not a Soul of 'em forgets to wish him and his Spouse much Happiness, putting up also their Prayers, that Heaven may bless them, the next Year, with as fine a Daughter, as they have got a Son; to the End, that they may again be invited to replenish their Souls at his Cost. Well, they are all gone staggering Home; let us therefore wish them a good Night.

72 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Now, O *Father*, as these Pleasures are almost at an End ; prithee confess, don't you already begin to wish, that you may soon have another Opportunity of repeating them over again ?

Well *Nurse*, you have now, I hope, reaped the joyful Fruit of all your Labour and Trouble ; and certainly no one ever deserved it better : Your Master has done his Part, in providing a grand Entertainment, and your Mistress has not been wanting to invite a great Number of Gossips to consume it. Well, Heaven be praised, your Fatigue is at an End : If your big Expectations are not thoroughly answer'd, you must consider that Trading is dead, by which Means Guineas and Crowns, are seldom to be seen, and seldomer given away ; you must therefore, the next Job, make a better Bargain for yourself with your Mistress. And now, as your Time is but short, it behoves you at all Opportunities, to chear your Heart with a Glass of good Wine ; it was bought to be drank : And now you may do it without the Fear of offending the Gossips ; or, hurting your own Reputation : The more private you are the better, you'll drink never the less in public. Consider also, that it may be a great while before you are called to another Labour ; and longer before you may meet with such a dainty-mouth'd Mistress and liberal Master ; 'till when, you must be confin'd to a Garret, or a Cellar, and grow lean upon a miserable Diet at your own Expence.







BOOK X.

*The Child is coated ; a Feast upon the same,
very wonderful to be related.*

HOW superior are the Pleasures of married People, to those enjoy'd by single Persons ! fresh Delights and Joys, are Day after Day opening and displaying themselves to their ravish'd Minds, that others are ignorant of. Such is their Felicity, that the most exalted Description, conveys but a very imperfect and faint Idea to the unexperienc'd Imagination : You have already had a View of nine prime Pleasures, attended with an infinite Number of subordinate ones, but the out Lines have only been exhibited ; what would they appear, if the Advantages of Light and Shade, were properly dispos'd by a skilful Pencil !

Happy are our young Couple, that they have so wisely conducted themselves thro' such Scenes of Pleasure, as not to be overpower'd and bewilder'd in the delightful Labyrinth.

They have hardly digested the Delicacies of the Christ'ning, but other Joys are presented to their View : The Child must now be coated, and as it is a Concern of vast Moment and Importance, it would be the utmost Stupidity to pass it over uncommemorated. What therefore, is so well adapted to secure this Event from Oblivion, as an Entertainment : The former was for the Midwife and the Godfathers and Godmother, and a few others, but this must be more comprehensive ; therefore you need not doubt, but these Visitants

L

will

will be as delightful and entertaining in their Conversation as the former, and will be of infinite Service in helping to consume the Liquors which the others left behind 'em ; which no Question are an unspeakable Burthen to you. Don't think, that the Health of you and your Family will be drank to, less frequently by these your Relations, than by those who were only Friends and Acquaintance : Let not therefore such gloomy Imaginations disturb your Joys : Be but easy, and you'll soon see how handily they'll empty your Dishes, and Bottles. But lest their great Modesty shou'd prevent 'em from being free ; pour yourself out a Bumper, and make a Beginning with, *Long Life to his sacred Majesty ; Success to his Arms ; Confusion to the French and Spaniards, Success to Trade, or the like,* and I'll warrant you, they'll follow you close, and in return, your Ears will be charm'd with the repeated Sound of, *to you, and your Spouse's good Health ; may Prosperity and Happiness attend you both, and that you may be blessed nine Months hence, with a beautiful Girl to your jolly Boy,* that we then may have another Opportunity to rejoyce in the Happiness that attends ye.

While you and the Men are thus profitably employ'd, your Spouse and the Women will be holding a grand Consultation about the Furniture for the dear Infant, to the End that it may appear in all Respects conformable to the Circumstances of its *Papa* : This must be settled to Day ; because to morrow she goes to be Church'd, and in the Afternoon she'll have Work enough to go among the *Mercers*, to lay out your Money to the best Advantage. And indeed a whole Day is full little for *Madam* to determine an Affair of such Moment in ; she can, with much more Ease lay out your Money, than come to a Determination in what to expend it. One while this Thing will
mighty

mighty well become the Child, but then again, she thinks it too common, for she has seen several Children lately with the same. Then, she should vastly like that, but then again, she's afraid it will be too grave. Lord! Madam, says Mrs. *Eye-all*, did you never observe, your Neighbour's Child over the Way? Why what of that, says Madam? It is in the genteelest Dress that I ever saw: Well, and do you think that my Child is to be dressed like theirs: No, I'd have you know, 'tis not come to that neither. The good Woman, however, at last determines that she will pitch upon nothing in particular, till she goes Abroad; she'll then, no doubt on't, see something to her Mind. And as it is for her first Child, and God knows whether ever she shall have any more, she's resolved not to spoil a Ship to spare a little Tar: These Things you know, Madam, says she, are not to buy every Day; and as the most ordinary Thing I can buy, will be the same Charge making up, I will therefore without any more Trouble, have the very best that I can lay my Hands on; besides, it will be much for my Husband's Credit, and I know he'll be highly delighted to see his Boy, (for he's vastly fond of him) dressed up like a little Angel.

Rejoyce therefore, Father, that these Charges are at an End; and please yourself to think, that as your Child grows up, you will every Day have fresh Occasion to shew your Love to it by repeated Instances of Liberality: Should you indulge the least penurious Thought, you will at once erase from your Mind the Relish of past Pleasures, and eclipse those that are just breaking in upon you. Rejoyce, also, that the Wife of your Bosom is not only beautiful, but fruitful, by which your Name will be perpetuated to Ages yet to come: And not only so, but that she is solicitous to equip your little

76 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

Darling in such a Manner, as to be the Delight of every Eye, and the Joy of every Heart; the Credit of which, will in the End terminate upon yourself: While, therefore, your Spouse is ruminating upon, and adjusting these important Matters to Advantage, disturb not her prudent Cogitations, with any Doubts, Scruples, or Objections; but give her all possible Assurances, that you are charm'd and delighted with her frugal and cautious Oeconomy; and for the World, whatever you may think, suffer not the Words, *Pride, Extravagance, Expence*, or such like, to fall from your Lips in her hearing, so shall your Joys be everlasting, and your Pleasures know no Bounds.

I know you are ready to reply, but pray speak softly, that Merchandizing and Trading are prodigiously decay'd, that the War enhances the Price of Commodities; and, as a Consequence of which, People are daily breaking in your Debt; that your Expences have been very great since you have been married, and the like. But, is not this looking on the wrong Side of the Picture; turn it therefore, and behold what an Infinity of Pleasure, Joy and Happiness, surrounds you; ballance the Account between 'em, and you will still find Reason to be joyful. --- But to comfort you, however, a little, for I am afraid you are vapourish; to Morrow or next Day, Nurse is to be discharged, and you'll then not only have one less in Family, but you'll be rid of a *wastful, guttling, sluttish, tittle-tattle, gossiping Hussey*.

Your *Wet-nurse*, indeed, must be with you till the Child is wean'd; but then you are vastly happy in her, for she is very fond of the Boy. Besides, both you and your Spouse are freed from the ill Conveniencies of such a troublesome Bedfellow; while others, who suckle their Children themselves, are continually disturb'd with the Squalling and
Roaring

The Pleasures of Marriage. 77

Roaring of the turbulent Child. Nay, 'tis often the Case that the Woman is sickly and weak, and not able to take the Child out and put it into the Cradle ; so that the Husband must be disturb'd, if it be twenty Times a Night, to give his Wife all necessary Assistance. Here indeed, I think the Pleasures of our Husband are deficient: He only enjoys them in the superlative Degree, who is very assiduous in rocking the Cradle, warming the Pap, and feeding the Infant, dandling it in his Arms, and in making Use of all proper Methods to quiet it, that his poor Wife may enjoy the Pleasures and Advantages of Rest. But such a Man's Happiness seldom ends here ; for after having been rocking the Cradle three Parts of the Night, the Child, instead of being appeas'd, grows ten Times crosser, and roars and bawls to that Degree, that Father, Mother, Maid, and all in the House, must get out of their Bed to quiet it: Nor, is this all their Pleasure, for in a few Months more, some Teeth are ready to cut, and as this is attended with great Pain, it throws the poor Infant into a Fever, which sets it a bawling and squalling so violently, that it's Parents can't get a wink of Sleep for a Week together ; but are every Night counting the Clock, and wishing with the utmost Impatience for the Approach of Day.

But let not such as these repine at their Lot, if they intend to make any Advances in the instructive School of Patience ; let 'em rather esteem it a Happiness, that they have thereby frequent Opportunities of putting their Knowledge into Practice, which is the ready Way to promote its Increase. How will their Trouble and Diligence be rewarded, when the tender Infant shall make its grateful Returns with innocent Smiles, winning Glances, and lisping forth the chearing Sounds, *Mam, Dad, Pap,* and the like. But you, thro' the Assistance
of

78 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

of your Nurse, being free from most of the Trouble of the Infant, may possibly find Leisure to accomplish the kind Wishes of your Gossips, and your Wife may enter upon a new Reckoning. And what an unspeakable Pleasure will it be, when you are fully satisfied, that you are about to enter upon the second Edition, and, perhaps, with considerable Additions of Delight and Joy! Then will your Character as a Workman, be sufficiently established among the old Women, to your everlasting Honour and Renown!

But, when you find that your Spouse has happily conceived, beware of Country Journeys, especially on Horseback, lest the tender Fruit should be blasted before it is fit for *Mother Midnight* to gather: But 'tis hop'd, that former Experience has impress'd these Things with proper Force upon your Memory.

But in the mean Time, turn your Eyes to the Center of all your Joys: See your beautiful, smiling Infant, adorn'd in all the Elegancies of the most luxurious Fancy. See how tenderly your Spouse views him, and embraces him by Turns; then views him round, and kisses him again. Charming Sight!

Well, I think it's high Time that your Spouse should begin to return her Visits, that they may all see and applaud her Taste, the Child's Beauty, and your Manhood. She has a World of Business upon her Hands, to be sure! 'Twill take up a Month at least: My Heart begins to ache, for the Nurse and the Maid, who must attend her to carry the Child, for he's really very heavy; I'll warrant they'll wish both Child and Mother too at the Devil, before all the Visits are paid. But I am most of all concern'd, on Account of the Maid; poor Creature, she'll be tir'd to Death when the Child's wean'd, and the Nurse is discharg'd: Her whole Employment,

The Pleasures of Marriage. 79

Employment, when she has done her other Business, will be rocking, dancing, dressing, and carrying him Abroad. She'll be ty'd to the Child, like a Bear to a Stake, and never be suffer'd to go Abroad as usual among her Relations and Acquaintance.

Let not happy *Father*, the gadding Abroad of your Spouse, give you the least uneasy Sensation; for, if you have any Taste, you'll discern that this also is a Pleasure inseparable from a married State. The Ill-conveniencies that attend her Absence, don't deserve the least Notice or Regard; for if Affairs should be neglected at Home, you may easily call to your Assistance, a Sempstress, and a Chairwoman or two, and every Deficiency will soon be supply'd: To this you are no Stranger: Consider also, to your unspeakable Comfort, that there's an absolute Necessity for the Child to be remov'd from Place to Place, in order to preserve and promote his Health. To sit upon its Breech, every good Woman can tell you, will soon bring upon it the Rickets, and other no less terrible Disorders; and then, the pretty Creature is ruined for ever. Not only this, but it's being constantly taken Abroad, will inure it to Company, and by Degrees it will thereby be taught to eat any Thing that is given it; and to distinguish in an Instant Malt-liquor, from Wine or Brandy. And are not those most noble Accomplishments in a Child? And you'll hereafter have the Happiness to see, that all your Endeavours to correct those pretty Habits are entirely useless; but, what have we to do with Futurity: Care is the Parent of Grey-Hairs?

Besides all the above Advantages of taking the poor little Creature Abroad, it may not be one of the least, if it should happen to catch the Small-Pox; because then you will have the Pleasure of your Wife's Company at Home, as well as the Satisfaction

80 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

tisfaction of a Nurse to attend it in all its Illness; all which will be considerably augmented by the small Expence of a Doctor and Apothecary, and the terrifying Apprehensions of the Loss of the Beauty of the Child.

If your Spouse should now be again with Child, you must, in order to diversify your Pleasures, believe it is a Girl: And herein you may indulge your Fancy without Bounds. You must represent her to your Mind, possess'd outwardly of all that's tender, soft, and charming; and inwardly, of the highest Degree of Docility, Wit and Modesty: How will you be ravished to see the little Miss, neatly dressed, with her Work and her Book going to School without Reluctancy! And what will be your Pleasure, when from Time to Time, she comes between your Knees, and smilingly gives you an Account of the Progress she makes in her Learning! But, stop not here: A few Years more, and she becomes the Wonder and Admiration of all around her, for her exquisite Skill in every Accomplishment that adorns that tender Sex. How fluent and elegant does she speak the *French* Tongue; but when she sings, or gives you a Specimen of her Skill, on the Spinnet or Harpsicord, you are ravished. Add to these, an easy agreeable Air in dancing, and an exquisite Taste and Delicacy in Dress; and all these, and many more attended with unaffected Modesty; what Wonder is it, if all the young Ladies in the Neighbourhood, are ambitious to rank themselves among the Number of your Daughter's Associates? With these Helps, she will soon be instructed to relish the Pleasures that flow from Alteration of Fashions; will imbibe the highest Veneration and Esteem for the richest *Damasks* and *Brocades*; and will humbly adore a Suit of *Pinnars*, *Handkerchief* and *Ruffies*, if they are of the newest Mode, and most costly *Brussels* Lace.

The Pleasures of Marriage. 81

Lace. These valuable Accomplishments, you will have the Pleasure to see succeeded by others, of no less Importance to the Dignity, Honour and Prosperity of your Family. Receiving and returning of Visits, from House to House, with all the Ceremony of well-bred Ladies ; frequenting the *Play-house, Opera, Masquerades*, and all other Kind of publick Diversions ; you, O happiest of Mortals, will find to be the Result of your Daughter's docile and tractable Disposition. But the Joy you take in her fine Accomplishments, would be defective, if they only serv'd to make her the Delight, Wonder, or Envy of her own Sex : She begins therefore to feel an unaccountable Propensity, towards establishing an innocent Correspondence with some of the other. To effect which, she dresses and walks Abroad more frequently, and with the utmost Art she's Mistress of, is incessantly endeavouring to captivate some Youth or other, with the superior Charms of her Innocence and Beauty. And, as she has thus made the Signal, she's soon attended with Crowds of Admirers, each endeavouring to exceed the other in Demonstrations of the most durable and inviolable Affection. But while she is thus endeavouring to lay the Snare for others, she is at last entangled in it herself : She feels it ; and, for want of Experience, she soon discovers it to the pleasing Object of her Wishes. He fans the Flame, and in an unguarded Moment, not only deprives her of her Chastity and Virtue, but begets upon her his Image, to grace and adorn your Family. Now are your Joys at the highest Pitch imaginable !

As you have therefore, O happy Pair, been encircled round with such an Infinity of ravishing Pleasures and Delights ; let your future Time be

M

employ'd

82 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

employ'd in ruminating upon the pleasing Ideas : But bury them not there; describe to all about you, without Reserve, your blissful State; so will many others, enchanted with the Relation, follow your Steps and join the happy Throng.

THE CONCLUSION.

THUS, dear Cousin, I have exhibited to your View some of the first Scenes of the blissful State of Matrimony; are they not delightful? And do you not long to see the last Act? But, however, be not impatient, for Marriage may not unfitly be compar'd to a Tragi-Comedy, where the Beginning promises nothing but Joy and Felicity, which nevertheless is often interspers'd with a Number of disagreeable Incidents before the Conclusion.

Consider also, that the Prospect I here send you, is taken from a Point of Sight extremely advantageous; the married Pair themselves are neither extremely great or very mean, but of the midling Rank of People, (who certainly have the largest Portion of earthly Felicity) their Fortunes and Ages are suppos'd to be equal, their Tempers agreeable in themselves, and conformable to each other, their Love reciprocal and tender, together with an Uniformity in their Dispositions; to which may be added, that hitherto Fortune has been propitious to all their Wishes.

Possibly

The Pleasures of Marriage. 83

Possibly the View of the Contrast might not be quite so agreeable ; suppose Age united with Youth, or my Lord wedded to his Chambermaid, or the Dutchess with her Footman, what Harmony might be there expected ? But let us imagine Equality in Age, Birth and Fortune, can nothing else imbitter all their Joy ? What shall we say to unaccountable Coldness on one Side, and Jealousy on the other, the Husband refractory, the Wife stubborn, the one a Gamester or Rake, the other perhaps both. For there are some Satyrists fond enough to accuse the Fair Sex, in these polite Times, of imitating all the modish Vices of the other. But let who will give them Credit, you and I will remain Infidels in so delicate a Point. As for you, it is enough that the beautiful Creature you adore is without Spot or Blemish, possesses an Assemblage of all the Vertues, and such Charms as can never fade ; is so affable and agreeable, who can behold her without Transport ? Then her Temper is so excellent and uniform, who ever saw it discompos'd ? No Person certainly ; have not you been as vigilant as a Spy, and yet could never make any Discovery of her Imperfections ; how could she conceal them from you ? Impossible ! Have not you attended her like her Shadow ? Could she be continually on her Guard, and always elude your Inquisition ? No, no, she is doubtless a Compendium of all Perfections ! And who can question your Happiness, when you are united to the dear Charmer ! O the extatick Moment that gives you all you wish ! All that Earth can yield to make your Joy immense. Years, Months and Days will then so swift and smoothly glide along, they will seem but Moments heretofore ; and all your future Time revolve in a Circle of Delight. Dear Cousin, if this is the Case, no Wonder you should

84 *The Pleasures of Marriage.*

should be eager to enter such a Paradise! 'Tis true, there was a Serpent in that of old, and *Eve* could listen to his Tale, but what of that? Women now are wiser. Well, shall I hear what you resolve in this momentous Affair? But howsoever it be, rest assur'd your Determination will not in the least diminish my Affection, which so far resembles *the Pleasures of Marriage*, as only with Life to admit

F I N I S.

I AP 64



